

Iraq seeks permission to buy sugar, corn

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq called on the U.N. Sanctions Committee on Saturday to allow it to buy sugar and corn, accusing the United States and Britain of being behind its deepening food crisis. Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdî Salah told a press conference that the committee had not replied to an Iraqi demand made two months ago to buy 331,000 tonnes of sugar and 120 tonnes of corn from France. His statement came as the U.N. Security Council expressed concern over reports of Iraqi troop build-up near the border with Kuwait. "The delay in giving permission as well as the refusal by the Sanctions Committee to allow a previous purchase from Thailand of 300,000 tonnes of rice and 250,000 tonnes of corn, forced Iraq to eat individual rations of these basic foods," he said. Rationing of certain foods was brought in when the U.N. imposed sanctions on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Mr. Salah said Washington and London were to blame for worsening food shortages adding that "more than a million people, including 500,000 children have died because of the embargo."

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U.N. 'concerned' over Iraqi moves amid build-up in Gulf

Baghdad non-committal on intentions; U.S. renews warning

Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED Nations Security Council expressed grave concern on Saturday over reports of large Iraqi troop movements toward the Kuwaiti border as the United States ordered a military build-up in the Gulf and renewed a warning to Iraq.

A statement read out at a brief council meeting called for the 1,140-member U.N. observer mission patrolling a demilitarized zone along the Iraq-Kuwait border to redouble its vigilance and report on any violations or potentially hostile action.

The council also reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait, which Iraq occupied for seven months until ejected by a United States-led coalition early in 1991.

The council statement underlined Iraq's full responsibility for accepting all obligations under U.N. Gulf war resolutions. These include the scrapping of its weapons of mass destruction and stringent U.N. inspections to ensure it does not reacquire forbidden arms.

In addition to the Iraqi troop movements, the Security Council was reacting to a recent implied threat by Baghdad's Revolutionary Command Council to stop cooperating with U.N. weapons inspection teams unless the United Nations begins easing crippling sanctions that have been in force for more than four years.

American U.N. envoy Madeleine Albright displayed five satellite photographs of what she said were Iraqi troop movements towards the Kuwait border when the council held closed-door consultations.

A U.S. official said several envoys, including those from France and Russia, who were awaiting their own intelligence briefings, were present.



Kuwaitis attentively watch television after news that Iraqi troops are heading for the Kuwaiti border (AFP photo)

gence when the council conferred privately on the same issue Friday, now said they had reason to believe U.S. information about the Iraqi military moves was correct.

Iraq charged that the United States was trying to stir up another Gulf crisis and warned it could lead to armed conflict between the two countries.

"Iraqis will be forced to defend their homeland and their dignity by all the methods at their disposal," said the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah.

The crisis which the U.S. administration is trying to create can easily be avoided, just as it can lead to armed conflict" between the United States and Iraq, it said.

The Iraqi authorities have refused to confirm or deny the troop movements, insisting it was its own business.

"The United States are doing everything in their power to humiliate the Iraqi people and destroy the coun-

try. We are left with but one choice: To defend our sovereignty by all means and at any price," vowed Al Qadissiyah.

The army's newspaper said that "all Iraqis are in solidarity with and support their leadership to confront with determination this American plot aimed at starving them."

Al Iraq declared that Baghdad's patience had run out over the embargo.

Al Iraq said the U.N. must fix a date to ease sanctions now that Iraq had fulfilled its obligations.

"We are the owners of striking swords, a combat history and heroism that knows no limits," the paper said in an editorial.

It accused the U.N. of forgetting its neutrality and throwing itself "into the arms of the U.S. devil."

U.S. intelligence services were keeping a close eye on the 40,000 to 50,000 troops Iraq has near Kuwait, some within 20 kilometres of the

border of the emirate.

On Friday, President Bill Clinton ordered navy and marine forces to the area and said: "It would be a grave mistake for (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein to believe we have weakened its resolve; the same issues that involved us in that conflict just a few years ago."

On Friday, President Bill Clinton ordered the aircraft carrier USS George Washington and ships laden with supplies for the U.S. Army and Marine corps to steam towards the Gulf region and increased air reconnaissance in the area, Pentagon officials said.

Mr. Clinton issued a terse warning Saturday to Iraq not to underestimate the United States.

"I want to make it clear one more time, it would be a grave error for Iraq to repeat the mistakes of the past or to misjudge either American

will or American power," Mr. Clinton said, as he was leaving the White House for the presidential retreat at Camp David.

The president's comments echoed a warning he issued on Friday to Iraq.

Referring to the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, reversed by a U.S.-led allied military force, the president said the Iraqis "should not be misled into thinking they can repeat the mistakes of the past."

U.S. Defence Secretary

William Perry said the Iraqi troop movements were "not routine and are not typical of what we've seen in the past and therefore cause us concern." The United States has a "very substantial capability" in the area and would be ready for any necessary deployment, he said.

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Noting that investors always have an eye on political stability, the Crown Prince said: "I think what is important to them is 'yes, there is the possibility of an inside run in investing in the Middle East provided you understand that the investment would not be in terms of quick profit..."

The Crown Prince emphasised the need to address the problem of unemployment.

"Participation in peace is essential for peace," he said. "You cannot have unemployment anywhere in the world and speak of stability."

In reply to a question on future relations between

Crown Prince hopes Israel, Syria will find quid pro quo

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday expressed hope that Israel and Syria would be able to find common ground to address each other's concerns and arrive at a peace agreement.

The Crown Prince, speaking in an interview with Cable News Network (CNN), also expressed optimism that the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held in Morocco Oct. 30-Nov. 1 would be an opportunity to attract international investments to the region.

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In reply to a question on future relations between



Israel and Syria, the Crown Prince said: "I cannot figure out any relations until they come in terms of negotiations, speaking of our own experience, and I do not speak for others obviously, I hope that quid pro quo concerns over territory on one hand and concerns over security on the other can somehow be brought to focus."

"I think that is the basic obstacle with the emphasis on security has to be reciprocal with emphasis on territorial issues, (and) has to enhance the conception of peace..."

"I think that co-religionists have to negotiate directly face to face and I would like to make it clear that concordant agreements between Christians, Muslims and Jews in situations over the centuries have given every indication that there is a possibility of developing a shared perception of a city of peace."

Israel welcomes Sharaa interview, says more needed

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Saturday praised his Syrian counterpart for his televised appeal to the Israeli public, but said the Syrians do not show that they are serious about peace.

In an unprecedented interview with Israeli TV on Friday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told Israelis that peace with Syria would mean the end of all wars and a new era of prosperity.

Mr. Peres said he was involved in the pressure campaign of trying to get the Syrians to do more to win over Israeli public opinion.

"I supported this experiment (the interview), and I thought more ideas should be carried out, on a higher level," Mr. Peres said, referring to efforts to bring Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin together for a summit.

The Syrians reject a summit, saying Israel must first commit itself to a complete withdrawal from the Golan, a demand Israel refuses.

Israel's opposition leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, charged that Mr. Sharaa's

In reply to a question about Jordan's future role in Jerusalem, the Crown Prince said: "I think that the political and administrative responsibilities would clearly be Palestinian responsibilities in the final status discussions between the Palestinians and the Israelis in 1996."

"However, it is not a sticky issue for us at all. What we are trying to say, may be we will be misunderstood, is that we believe in shared moral authority between the believers of the three Abrahamic faiths."

"As we agreed with the Vatican on interim units within the walls of the Old City, and I believe that it is practically important that in the year 2000 when we celebrate the hi-millennium jointly as believers in God rather than seeing some Christians celebrating with some Jews, I think that it is very important that we do not separate religion from politics but we should enhance the chances of peace..."

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Amnesty approved for Haiti military; violence continues

PONT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — Senators have expanded Haiti's amnesty law, but it is unclear whether it went far enough to induce the nation's military rulers to resign and let Jean-Bertrand Aristide reclaim his presidency.

Negotiations would take place at the Erez checkpoint between the Gaza Strip and Israel alongside general talks on the extension of Palestinian self-rule, Dr. Shaath said Saturday.

The Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord which launched self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May envisaged four corridors between the autonomous areas, along existing Israeli roads circumventing Jerusalem.

But their implementation has been delayed by a dispute over the carrying of arms across Israel by Palestinian security agents.

Dr. Shaath, speaking after a meeting of the Palestinian National Authority here, voiced its concern over the growing crisis on the Kuwait-Iraq border and said he hoped it would be "settled peacefully."

The entire Kuwaiti army of 20,000 men hacked by troops and armoured vehicles was reported to be massing on the border late Saturday, after U.S. reports that thousands of Iraqi troops were heading toward the emirate.

Meanwhile some 2,000 supporters of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat marched

concerned about reports that brutal sheriffs were beating up democracy supporters and intimidating them with gunfire in rural areas where U.S. troops have not deployed.

The amnesty was approved Friday as a provision of the Sept. 18 agreement between the United States and Haiti that is to culminate with the resignation of the army chief, Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras.

The U.S. operation in Haiti has been a huge success, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Saturday.

Mr. Perry, accompanied by his chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili arrived for a one-day visit to assess the situation for themselves.

"Significant progress has been made... in the last two weeks since my last visit," Mr. Perry said in a statement

at the Port-au-Prince airport. "Indeed, to this date this had been a highly successful military and logistical operation," he added.

Gen. Shalikashvili also had high praise for the U.S. troops in Haiti.

"When I think back some three weeks ago when we started this operation, I did not think there was anyone... who ever dreamed that this operation up to now would go so well," he said.

Gen. Cedras had pledged to relinquish power by Oct. 15, the date of Mr. Aristide's expected return, if a general amnesty was approved. He made no comment on the new legislation, but a source close to him said on condition of anonymity that he did not believe it met the terms of the general amnesty Gen. Cedras

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. sees positive developments in peace process

WASHINGTON (USA) — A U.S. official stressed Friday that things are "changing" in the Middle East peace process, citing positive "psychological" developments in recent weeks in relations between Israel and some Arab states.

Briefing reporters on Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming trip to the Middle East, the official cautioned that these changes "do not mean we are on the brink of a breakthrough" in the Israeli-Syrian track of the peace process. "Gaps (between the parties) on the key issues remain. Progress is incremental," he said.

Mr. Christopher was to leave Washington Saturday for visits to Israel, Syria, Jordan and Egypt, where he will hold discussions before returning to Washington on Oct. 14.

The official emphasised that the trip will focus not only on the Israeli-Syrian peace effort but also will deal with efforts by Israel and Jordan to move toward a peace settlement. The two parties are "working hard" on his objective, he said.

In addition, Mr. Christopher wants to ensure that the Palestinians understand what is required of them by the nations providing assistance. There is a need, the official said, for Palestinian authorities to institute tax measures and to reassure the aid donors that their help is not an open-ended process. The United States, he added, is "generally satisfied" that it can account for the spending of the assistance funds by the Palestinian authorities.

Commenting on recent changes in the region, the official cited the Gulf Cooperation Council's statement on the removal of the secondary boycotts against companies doing business with Israel, the Israeli-Tunisian agreement on exchanging economic officers through Belgium, the meeting of the Israeli and Tunisian foreign ministers, and the Israeli foreign minister's interview publicly with the Omani foreign minister.

The official also referred to the declaration of the Israeli-Jordanian economic commission on cooperative developments and the recent Washington news conference by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaz, at which Israeli reporters were welcomed. This was followed by the Syrian minister's interview with Israeli television,

which the official characterised as a "first... something that you would have not seen before."

He emphasised that while Syria and Israel have not agreed on key issues, there is a process to deal with the issues.

On the Israel-Syrian track, he also noted:

— Each side is "convinced that the other is really interested in trying to reach an agreement."

— The level of detail achieved on the issues has increased.

— There is an effort by both sides to understand each other's position.

These developments "collectively reflect that things are changing," the official stressed, and that each party has "become more persuaded of the seriousness of the other side."

The official added that Syria now recognises a need to convey its views to the Israeli public and to address some of the Israeli concerns. The official noted that this has not happened before.

He said that Sharaz in his meeting with President Clinton Friday presented a letter from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in which the Syrian leader said that he was strongly committed to the peace process and hopes to see it reach a logical conclusion.

Mr. Clinton reviewed with the foreign minister the status of the peace talks and "where we see the various issues... and our perspective of the Israeli view of things," the official said.

AFP adds: Secretary of State Christopher is expected to meet Palestine leader Yasser Arafat during his Middle East tour next week and will likely discuss aid and other economic issues, a U.S. official said.

"He would expect to see us at some point on this trip," said a senior State Department official.

The official said Washington was seeking evidence that Palestinian officials are properly managing the self-rule zones of Gaza and Jericho which are supported by aid from the United States and other donor countries.

"We are generally satisfied with the arrangements," the official said. "We need assurances that the Palestinians will set up a tax system of their own to generate their own revenues."



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein speaks with reporters in this file photo taken Aug. 25 in Baghdad (AFP photo)

Azziz, Albright in war of words at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Azziz called on the international community Friday to examine the "iniquitous and illegitimate situation" under which he said one or two major powers were preventing the lifting of sanctions against his country.

In a speech to the General Assembly devoted almost entirely to the sanctions, he criticised the United States frequently for shifting demands on what Iraq must do to get sanctions eased or lifted.

"It is within Iraq's rights to demand strongly that this iniquitous and illegitimate position be changed soon, and to seek full clarity in the position of the Security Council on its just demands."

Mr. Azziz, however, made no mention of U.S. reports that Iraqi troops were being moved towards the Kuwaiti border. He also did not repeat any recent threats from Baghdad that Iraq would stop cooperating with U.N. weapons officials if there was no movement towards lifting the oil embargo.

"We request the members of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the international community as a whole to look into the iniquitous and illegitimate situation in which one or two permanent members obstruct the correct legal application of the resolutions of the Security Council, and, consequently, continue to impose upon the Iraqi people, the nation of ancient history, cruel sufferings covering all aspects of life," Mr. Azziz said.

But he hinted Baghdad might move that direction saying that "we are also ready to satisfy the concerns of the members of the council, of which we have become aware in our contacts with them."

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porters to say "I have just come from hearing one of the most ridiculous speeches delivered at the United Nations by Iraq."

Washington has maintained a hardline position on easing the oil embargo against Iraq, imposed after Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The sanctions, which have remained unchanged for more than four years, prevent Iraq from exporting oil, its prime economic asset. This has resulted in increasing hardship for ordinary Iraqis.

Mr. Azziz also alluded to Britain, which so far has sided with the United States while council members France, Russia and China are more flexible towards lifting the oil embargo.

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tanks and 800 armoured personnel carriers, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Let it be absolutely clear to the Iraqi government that a repetition of its past mistakes will be met by my government with the same resolve as before," Ms. Albright said. She did not directly mention the air strikes the United States frequently used to punish Iraq for defying U.N. resolutions.

The deployments do not violate the ceasefire terms Iraq agreed to at the end of the Gulf war over three years ago. Iraq agreed to respect Kuwait's borders, destroy its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and submit to a U.N. monitoring system to make sure it does not make or buy such weapons.

Mr. Rajavi said the human rights group would be able to speak privately "with anyone they want."

On Tuesday, senior State Department officials told a House of Representatives hearing in Washington that the United States opposes dealing with the resistance group in Iran because of its human rights record and its ties with Iraq.

Several members of Congress are urging the United States to have contacts with the Mujahedeen, saying the group has changed.

"They have killed Americans in Iran, they have admitted responsibility for that. They participated in the hostage-taking and they supported it completely. And their primary base of operations today is in Iraq, with the support, sponsorship and umbrella protection of Saddam Hussein," Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau said at the hearing.

"We do not feel that with

Mujahedeen allow human rights to visit bases

NEW YORK (Agencies) — An Iranian opposition group based in Iraq has agreed to allow a human rights group to visit its bases to investigate allegations of human rights abuses.

"We welcome an inspection by any impartial group," Massoud Rajavi, head of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq organisation, said late Friday in a statement issued by a spokesman in Washington.

Earlier Friday, the executive director of Human Rights Watch/Middle East said in a letter to Mr. Rajavi they were concerned about allegations of torture and detention of Mujahedeen supporters who have tried to leave or criticise the organisation.

The allegations which concern us relate to the incarceration and alleged torture and ill-treatment to Mujahedeen supporters who have sought to leave the organisation, or to voice criticism of its policies," the Human Rights Watch letter said.

Iran, which described the Mujahedeen as a terrorist group, has accused the group of abusing members who want to quit. Alleged confessions of ex-Mujahedeen members have been carried by Iran's state-run newspapers and broadcast stations.

The allegations against the Mujahedeen have not been verified.

Mr. Rajavi spoke to the AP via a telephone hook-up arranged by his office in Paris. The Mujahedeen said he was at one of their bases along Iran-Iraq frontier.

Mr. Rajavi said he had not yet received the Human Rights Watch letter but had learned of its contents through Iran's official news agency, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). Carried excerpts of the letter in a report New York late Thursday.

Mr. Rajavi said the Mujahedeen have not been tortured.

The people who want to leave are threatened by the Mujahedeen. They are told they will be killed if they leave," Elsie Hicks, a Human Rights Watch/Middle East researcher, said in an interview earlier Friday.

"We have received lots of complaints from Mujahedeen supporters saying they want to leave and don't want to fight any more against Iran," she added.

She said once the Mujahedeen have disgruntled supporters over to Iraqi security officers, they are tortured and beaten.

Mr. Rajavi said the human rights group would be able to speak privately "with anyone they want."

The Mujahedeen-Khalq was created as an underground organisation with the Marxist philosophy in the early 1960s. It was instrumental in the success of the 1979 Islamic revolution, which overthrew the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the late revolutionary patriarch, turned against the Mujahedeen soon after an Islamic government was installed. Hundreds of Mujahedeen supporters were executed, and Mr. Rajavi fled to France. The French expelled him to Iraq in 1986 in a deal with Iran for the release of French hostages held in Lebanon.

From its Baghdad headquarters, the Mujahedeen has run cross-border operations in Iran with fighters of its National Liberation Army, formed in 1987 and armed largely with weapons provided by Iraq.

"We do not feel that with

Kabul families move to safer areas amid lull in fighting

KABUL (AFP) — Many families took advantage of a lull in hostilities in southwest Kabul Saturday to move to safer areas, as frontline soldiers replenished their ammunition stocks.

"Of course the offensive is going on, but as you know in any fighting you need to resupply your soldiers," said an infantry commander of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

He said that in the first three days of a counter-offensive, pro-Rabbani troops have cleared Qayeli Qazi village and parts of the low ground forward of it in the direction of the west Kabul district of Dashti Barchi.

Pro-Rabbani troops from three factions launched an infantry offensive against

their coalition rivals Thursday, in an attempt to recapture Dashti Barchi and the strategic Kabul Scud missile base further east.

Dashti Barchi and the former Soviet Red Army Scud missile base were captured by a coalition force of the Shiite Hezbollah faction and their Pushtun allies of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami, about two weeks ago.

Frontline pro-Rabbani troops reported that the Scud base and its massive stores of tank and heavy artillery ammunition including four Scud rocket launchers, formerly controlled by their Shiite Harakat-e-Islami faction, allies, was lost because Harakat did not trust its Sunnite Muslim allies to share the defence of this important position.

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Frontline pro-Rabbani

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1994 3



Meeting at the Prime Ministry: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday meets at his office with U.S. Assistant Defence Secretary Frederick Smith and an accompanying delegation. The discussions, which were attended

by U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan, covered Jordanian-U.S. cooperation in military affairs, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra (Petra photo)

Gulf tension affects Amman market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The tension from the reported Iraqi military buildup near the border of Kuwait and the U.S. response to it had its immediate impact on the Amman Financial Market (AFM) on Saturday when prices fell by more than one per cent, brokers said.

The daily trading report of the AFM said the general price index based on 60 major companies closed at 44.31 points, down 1.2 points or 1.04 per cent from Friday's opening (last week's closing) of 45.33 points.

Brokers said the market was tense over reports that Iraq was moving several of its divisions to its border with Kuwait, and the U.S. as responding to the move by ordering a military buildup in the Gulf, along

lines of the 1990 Gulf crisis.

"Confusion was the main feature today in the market," said a broker. "Prices went down during the morning trading, but they recovered in the afternoon session. This reflected a conflict in thinking among investors."

The final drop in prices for the day was "not significant," said the broker, adding that if the morning trend continued the decline would have been much higher.

"Some of the investors think that the crisis, if there is one brewing, will be over in a matter of days," said the broker, who cannot be identified under standing AFM guidelines. "Others think there might be little effect of what is happening in the Gulf on the Jordanian economy."

"Yet, there are others who don't want to take any chances at all," and hence the "unclear" status of trading in the market, said the broker.

Majeed Ali Kreisha, head of Al Hilal brokerage firm, was quoted as saying by Reuter:

"The market panicked on the news about Iraq and Kuwait, but the fear is not justified,

and this is a good opportunity to invest."

Another broker, also quoted by Reuter, said: "News of Iraq made people jittery and brought back the images of the Gulf war climate and dealers were more inclined to sell than buy."

Trading for the day was lightly less than JD 1.2 million, a figure that brokers said was indicative of little since it was more or less the daily average in the past few weeks.

"Jordanian capital, particularly at the AFM, is very sensitive to regional developments and this is precisely the explanation for the fears in the stock market," said a banking executive.

"It is a long shot, but the AFM is not short of any bulls," added the broker.

"After all, the money in the market is more of individuals than of institutions," he noted. "Nobody wants to take chances with their money at a time when reminders of a crisis are still fresh in their minds."

Asked how they viewed prospects at the AFM for Sunday and the rest of the week, brokers who spoke to the Jordan Times were unanimous: No prediction is possible if only because nobody knows the shape of things on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti front, whether it is for "real" or Iraqi manoeuvring.

But, one broker said, "there may be a few fortune hunters in the market who hope that the present crisis may after all lead to an easing of the sanctions against Iraq."

"It is a long shot, but the AFM is not short of any bulls," added the broker.

IAF criticises GCC for lifting Arab boycott

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF), Jordan's mainstream Islamist group, on Saturday criticised the recent decision by the Arab Gulf states to lift the boycott of companies dealing with Israel and called on Arab leaders to reconsider their decision.

The IAF, in a statement addressed to Arab heads of state, described the decision of the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as a "stab for the Palestinian cause and for Arab and Muslim rights."

The front, a vehement opponent of the almost three-year-old peace process, also criticised the decision by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and "some Arab governments" to conduct peace negotiations and

reach agreements with Israel.

The one-page statement noted that the GCC decision to lift the boycott of firms dealing with Israel followed moves by some of the Arab Maghreb countries to take steps towards normalisation of relations with Israel.

That is the immediate visible effect of the GCC decision. But it also frees other companies to establish business and economic links with the Jewish state without having to worry about denied opportunities in the Gulf states.

The ban on direct trade and economic ties with Israel remains in place.

The IAF statement, reiterating its rejection of the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process, called last week that they were lifting the secondary and tertiary boycott of Israel.

Jordan, which is negotiating a peace agreement with Israel after declaring

an end to a 46-year state of belligerency between them in July, has welcomed the GCC move as positive but said that the decision should be endorsed by the Arab League.

Officials have said that, in the wake of the peace process and the progress made in Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks of negotiations, the Kingdom was applying a case-by-case approach to the secondary and tertiary boycotts while not adopting a blanket decision to end them altogether at this point in time.

A local firm linked with the American giant Motorola, whose name appears in the boycott list, is poised to sign a final multi-million dollar agreement under which Motorola equipment and technology would be used in Jordan's first cellular phone system.

Police chiefs to convene in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian delegation to a meeting of police chiefs scheduled to take place in Tunis this week will submit a working paper on inter-Arab security cooperation, according to Major-General Mohammad Basoul, assistant to the Public Security Department (PSD) director.

He said that development of tourism was also discussed.

Mr. Gratz, who was accompanied by Senator Josef Bandion and head of foreign relations with Arab and Islamic countries in the Vienna district office Shamal Sharaf, spent the first few days of his week-long visit to the Kingdom in Amman where he also met Mayor Mabdou Abadi. He later visited Petra and Aqaba.

Labour unions group plans first conference in 16 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions plans to hold its fourth general conference in Amman on Oct. 11 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, labour union leader Abdul Halim Khaddam announced Saturday.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Khaddam said the conference, which is convening after a 16-year break

due to circumstances beyond the federation's control, will be attended by delegates representing 17 labour unions in the Kingdom grouping 750,000 workers.

Working papers to be reviewed at the meeting concern the labour movement, the national economy, legislation governing labour and labourers, the labour market in the Kingdom, vocational training and relations between workers and employers.

Khaled Shreim, secretary general of the federation, told the press conference that various Arab labour federations and labour movements in foreign countries have been invited to attend the meeting as well as the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and the (ILO).

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Di Mambro is prize quarry in Swiss cult deaths manhunt

GENEVA (R) — Affluent French Canadian Joseph Di Mambro emerged Saturday as the prime object of a global police hunt for suspected doomsday cult murderers who may have used the sect as a cover for arms dealing.

Robert Steiner, police chief in the Swiss Valais Canton where 25 bodies were found in the Alpine hamlet of Granges, said international arrest warrants had been issued for Ms. Di Mambro, 70, and charismatic preacher Luc Jouret, a Swiss homeopathic doctor.

Former followers branded Mr. Di Mambro "little Napoleon" — a dictatorial figure who was the brains behind the sect which fused mysticism and paranoid delirium.

Detailing the role police suspect the two men played in the deaths of 48 disciples in Granges and a second village, Chery, Mr. Steiner told Reuters that both warrants were issued on charges of homicide and arson.

"They were issued by the examining magistrates in the two districts who consulted each other. There are no other warrants," Mr. Steiner said.

Italian minister keeps up pressure on graft-busters

ROME (R) — Defence Minister Cesare Previti Saturday branded as "madness" a probe into a television channel partly owned by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in a move likely to further fuel tension with Italy's graft-busters.

Mr. Previti, who is also Mr. Berlusconi's lawyer, accused Milan's "clean hands" anti-corruption magistrates of trying to justify their living with the probe into the Telepiù pay television channel in which the media tycoon holds a stake.

"The Telepiù investigation is madness," Mr. Previti told La Stampa newspaper in comments which kept up the government's war of words with the Milan anti-corruption judges.

The Telepiù probe further upset Italy's volatile political arena this week when Milan Prosecutor General Francesco Saverio Borrelli hinted it could touch Mr. Berlusconi himself.

The cabinet Thursday filed a complaint accusing Mr. Borrelli of trying to undermine the government.

Mr. Previti's comments were published the day after police raided the headquarters of Mr. Berlusconi's Fininvest media company as part of the probe into alleged irregularities at Telepiù.

"What offence has been committed? Who is to be charged? Where are the

police are still unsure whether the pair are on the run or among the bodies found in Switzerland this week. Many of the victims have yet to be identified.

In southern France overnight, police searched two isolated villas used by Mr. Di Mambro in August but turned up "nothing of significance," a police spokesman said.

Radio Canada reported that the sect was used as a cover for a vast international arms trafficking and money-laundering operation, apparently organised by Mr. Di Mambro. Another five bodies were found near the Canadian city of Montreal.

The unconfirmed report said the Order of the Solar Temple was believed to have funnelled weapons through Australia and developing countries on the black market, and to have laundered hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr. Di Mambro's wife Jocelyne Duplessis owned a flat in Ottawa, seen as the nerve centre of the operation.

Asked about the arms ring suspicions, Mr. Steiner said

he could not confirm them, but added: "It is possible."

Swiss Television showed pictures of a round-faced, moustachioed Di Mambro with a frizzy "afro" hairstyle who seemed much younger than his 70 years.

Mr. Di Mambro, jailed for six months in France in 1972 for fraud after passing himself off as a psychologist, was spotted along with Mr. Jouret, 46, in Granges hours before two chalets were gutted by fire early Wednesday and the bodies were found.

Investigators are increasingly convinced that at least some of the cult disciples found dead in Switzerland, far from being willing participants in collective suicide, were murdered.

At the chalets in Granges, police found several dozen hypodermic needles, intravenous drips, and small bottles with unidentified liquids inside. Some were faintly labelled "adrenalin" or "DNA," police said.

A powerful drug was injected into several of the 23 victims in the second village of Chery, an idyllic farming community in rolling green

hills some 160 kilometres north of Granges.

The extent of the wealth at the disposal of the sect's leaders was underlined by a search of a luxury Geneva mansion where Mr. Di Mambro sometimes lived. In the Garage were five expensive sports cars — four red Ferraris and a Lamborghini.

Former disciples said that, although Mr. Jouret had a mesmerising hold on disciples, Mr. Di Mambro ruled the order — and controlled the purse-strings — like a dictator.

Describing herself as a Protestant, a Fribourg farm worker woman who said she had also been a cult member told Swiss Radio that discord pitted Europeans against Canadian followers.

"The rivalry was such that Jouret was perfectly capable of murder. There were always rows between Europeans and Canadians. The issue was money. They made billions," she said.

The cult rituals she attended were "brain-washing sessions," she said. "It was almost like falling in love and then you can't get out of it."

German FDP leaders says party will shine through

BONN (R) — The leader of Germany's Free Democratic (FDP), in combative mood eight days before a general election, brushed off unfavourable opinion polls and said Saturday he was confident his ailing party would stay in power.

The FDP's election performance is crucial for Chancellor Helmut Kohl because it may determine whether he can stay in power or whether he may be forced into an unpopular grand coalition with the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

FDP leader Klaus Kinkel said in a newspaper interview he expected his party to prove pollsters wrong and win more than the minimum five per cent of votes needed to secure seats in parliament with Mr. Kohl.

"We are going for victory," Mr. Kinkel told the *Rhein-Zeitung*. "We will continue the successful coalition with Kohl."

The FDP, which sees itself as the party of civil liberty and small business, has alienated many former supporters who feel it has abandoned its principles.

An embarrassing blunder earlier this year in which the FDP called itself the party of "higher income earners" has also taken its toll.

After a humiliating series of regional and European election defeats, most recently in Bavaria last month, spe-

culation has mounted that the FDP could fall below five per cent in the general election.

"The FDP seems too weak to play its traditional role of balancing the coalition so many people can't see the point of voting FDP any more," said Manfred Guellner, chief executive of the Forsa Institute for Social Research.

A Forsa poll Thursday gave the FDP support of only four per cent for the second week running.

However, other polls put the FDP between six and 8.4 per cent, lower than the 11 per cent it won in the last general election in 1990 but still enough to keep it in power for another four-year term after 12 years in office with Mr. Kohl.

"The death knell has been rung for us before and it always helped us in the end," Mr. Kinkel said in another Saturday interview with the East German newspaper *Frieze Presse*.

Mr. Kinkel, who has headed the FDP since last year, was referring to tactical voters who in the past have often backed the FDP in the last minute.

Pollsters say this tendency means regional elections have only limited bearing on a nationwide election, where tactical voters may go for the FDP to back a particular coalition.

Clinton says November polls pose clear choice

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton said Friday that U.S. voters face a choice in next month's elections between looking towards the future or going back to what he claimed was the economic inequity and social polarisation of the 1980s.

At a televised news conference in the White House East Room, the Democratic president tuned up for a series of congressional campaign appearances by blaming Republicans for legislative gridlock.

Clinton, who will make political appearances in at least 10 states over the next three weeks, said that while Congress had made "real progress" on economic and educational issues, too many other measures ran into "someone trying to stop it, slow it, kill it or just talk it to death."

"A lot of the same people just recently signed that so-called 'contract with America,'" Mr. Clinton said, citing a legislative package that 330 Republican congressional candidates have promised to support if the Democrat-controlled Congress changes bands Nov. 8.

Mr. Clinton ridiculed the plan as a "contract on America" and said it was "a commitment to taking us back to the Reagan-Bush years."

Thirty-five Senate seats and all 435 seats in the House of Representatives at stake in the balloting, as are 36 of America's 50 state governors' jobs.

Republicans need a net gain of seven Senate and 40 House seats to realise their dream of being in the majority in both houses of Con-

gress simultaneously for the first time since 1954. Because of anti-incumbent sentiment in the country and Mr. Clinton's unpopularity, they are thought to have at least an outside chance of taking the legislative branch.

But Mr. Clinton said he planned to "go out and make sure the American people understand what the choice is" at the ballot box.

"Do they really want somebody just to tell them what they want to hear one more time, instead of someone who'll take over the tough problems?"

"Do they really want this contract, which is a trillion dollars of unfunded promises, a contract which certainly will lead to higher deficits, cuts in Medicare and throwing us back to the years of the 1980s when we lost jobs and weakened our country," Mr. Clinton asked.

"I think the American people will vote for the future and not the past, and that's my hope and belief," he said.

Assistant House Republican leader Newt Gingrich responded to the president's political salvo by challenging Mr. Clinton to a town hall meeting "anywhere in the country... in the next three or four weeks" on which direction Congress should take over the next two years.

"We'd be glad to see the president propose what his first six months would be next year if the Democrats keep the Congress," the Georgia Republican told CNN. "Let the people participate in a genuine town hall meeting and let the people choose what direction in which they want to go."

Clinton's comments came simultaneously for the first time since 1954. Because of anti-incumbent sentiment in the country and Mr. Clinton's unpopularity, they are thought to have at least an outside chance of taking the legislative branch.

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His work.

A few hundred people watched the arrival of the empress, dressed in a bright blue top black skirt, and her husband, who wore a sober grey suit, but by the time they emerged from the museum the crowd had grown to around 2,000.

Not for the first time since their arrival in France Monday they launched into a session of pressing the flesh which made the imperial timetable, worked out to the last second, completely out.

Tearing themselves away, the couple entered the imposing Sainte-Cécile Cathedral, built in a military style at the end of the 13th century and faced with red-brick. Its most famous feature is a large carved wooden rood screen across the nave.

The imperial couple had hardly emerged into the sunlight when crowds began cheering again, answered by a prolonged wave from Emperor Akihito standing on the cathedral steps.

Things were no different in the evening, when the emperor and empress returned to Toulouse.

At a reception in the city's Town Hall they were virtually mobbed as they made their way through the crowd for a brief speech by Mayor Dominique Baudis urging enhanced industrial cooperation between Toulouse and Japan.

Security staff, plainly on edge after a week of protecting the couple, were seen to be more than usually impatient with people trying to catch a glimpse of them.

They include 215 paintings and the entire range of his famous posters, well known in Japan from an exhibition staged in several cities there last year and illustrating the influence of Japanese art on

the Toulouse National Chamber Orchestra, before a private dinner.

Japanese living in France have followed with excitement the state visit by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko this week, but for one in particular the interest has been very personal...

For on Thursday Ryoko Ottignon met again the woman she last saw in her grandmother's house in Tokyo 30 years ago, little thinking at the time she would later be empress.

For Mrs. Ottignon's grandmother taught Empress Michiko calligraphy before she made Japanese history by becoming the first commoner to marry an heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

"The last time I saw her was in my grandmother's house in Sugimami-Ku, a few years before she got married, sometime in the mid-60s," said the 51-year-old, who now lives in southwest France.

"But she said straightaway that she remembered me from those days when she used to come to our house every week for lessons," she added, still reeling from the reunion.

Much water has passed under the bridge since then. Mrs. Ottignon, whose maiden name was Fujioka, left her native country after marrying a Briton in 1969.

She spent 20 years in England, bringing up two daughters, before moving to the village of Cahuzac Sur Vene, southwest France, with her husband Anthony five years ago.

One of her daughters, Laetitia, is still at high school, although the other, Saskia, 21, has returned to study Japanese in Tokyo, near where Mrs. Ottignon's mother still lives in her grandmother's old house.

And Thursday the moment finally arrived. "She told me she still had the special scroll given her by my grandmother, and thanked me very much," said Mrs. Ottignon.

Asked of her impressions of the 59-year-old empress three decades on, she replied without hesitation: "I have always remembered her as a very gentle young woman, and she still seems the same now."

Clinton urges vote for democracy

VIENNA (R) — Chancellor Franz Vranitzky called on Austria to vote for democracy and show contempt for a wave of suspected neo-Nazi letter bombs, as politicians made their final appeal for support before Sunday's general election.

Speaking before a rally of 2,000 Social Democrat supporters in Vienna Friday night, Mr. Vranitzky said four letter bombs sent this week to targets linked with foreigners and refugees threatened not only innocent life but democracy itself.

"I urge all Austrians to go out, cast your ballots and vote for the defence of democracy," he said.

Election posters of Mr. Haider, who had to resign in 1991 as provincial governor of his powerbase province of Carinthia after praising Adolf Hitler's labour policies, carry the banner: "We say what

you think."

Mr. Haider said Austria had to rid itself of the cosy system of privilege built up by Mr. Vranitzky's Social Democrats (SPOE) and his coalition partners, the conservative People's Party (OEP).

An opinion poll in Der Standard newspaper Saturday showed Mr. Haider winning 22 per cent of the vote, up from 16.6 per cent in the last general election in 1990.

It predicted the SPOE would receive 38 per cent down five per cent on 1990 results, and showed a slump in support for the OEP on 26 per cent, compared with 32 per cent four years ago.

Austria's 5.7 million electorate begin voting around 6 a.m. (0500 GMT) Sunday and first projections of the result are expected around 5 p.m. (1600 GMT).

Brando talks about fame

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AFP) — Marion Brando lamented the burden of fame in a rare television interview which in typical style the actor tried to subvert at every turn.

"It's older than who,"

Brando said of acting in the CNN interview. "There isn't anything that pays you as well as acting while you decide what the hell you're going to do with yourself."

"Who cares about the applause. Do I need applause to feel good about myself?"

Brando, who rewrote the book on American film acting with the emotional passion of his performances in such films as *On The Waterfront* (1954),

looked haggard and wore heavy makeup — which he said he applied himself. The subject of his troubled childhood never came up in the 90-minute session. His son Christian is serving a 10-year prison sentence for the 1990 shooting death of Dag Drottel, the lover of Christian's half-sister Cheyenne Brando who was pregnant at the time. Cheyenne has been diagnosed as a schizophrenic and hospitalized in a psychiatric clinic. Brando, 70, lived up to his reputation as a difficult interview subject. He mumbled. He took out his carbine. He popped into the camera when host Larry King was trying to introduce commercial breaks and lectured viewers on the environment and social wrongs, including the cause of American Indians. "We have never given one single postage-stamp size piece of earth back to them," Brando said referring to the seizure of native American lands by the United States. The actor also derided the career which had made him irresistible to women and very rich. But fame was what drove Brando to Tahiti, which he fell in love with while playing the pop-pish Christian Fletcher in *Monty On The Bonny*

2nd Beijing Jazz festival starts on Oct. 17

BELING (AFP) — The second Beijing Jazz Festival will be held Oct. 17-21, and the top attraction will be Dutch group Willems Breuker Kollektief, the organisers announced Friday. Other performers will include French pianist Stephane Kochoyan and Chinese saxophonist Liu Yuan. The festival, called Waiting for Jazz, was organised by the Beijing Goethe Institut, the French, Dutch and Spanish embassies and the China International Cultural Exchange Centre.

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World News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1994 5

16 killed in Indian language war

BANGALORE, India (R) — Police fired on Hindus and Muslims battling over the touchy issue of language in the streets of India's microchip capital Saturday, taking the death toll in two days of sectarian rioting to 16.

Karnataka's chief minister said the language battle in the south Indian city of Bangalore — India's Silicon Valley with a dense cluster of high-technology firms in and around it — prompted police to shoot at mobs again Saturday.

Veerappa Moily said eight people were killed Friday when the violence erupted, seven more died of their wounds overnight and police shot dead one man when they opened fire on a curfew-defying mob Saturday.

Trouble began when Muslims hurled stones at a Hindu rally protesting against newly-introduced news broadcasts on state-run Doordarshan Television in Urdu, the mix of Persian and Hindi which is spoken by India's 160 million Muslims.

It is also the official language of Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India since independence in 1947.

A round-the-clock curfew was imposed on most of the old city of Bangalore, the Karnataka state capital, and paramilitary police were ordered to shoot curfew-breakers on sight.

Violence continued late into the night as Hindus attempted to set fire to mosques and Muslims defended them with lengths of chain and firebombs, a senior police official said.

Senior police officer H.T. Sangalani, bandaged after being hit by a stone Friday, told Reuters scattered violence continued for most of Saturday and police had to open fire on two occasions.

"The situation is very bad in at least two areas," he said.

Mr. Moily said he had called Hindu and Muslim leaders to separate meetings in a bid to find a solution to a vicious confrontation ahead of elections for a new state assembly.

Political sources said Mr. Moily could not afford to anger Muslims by removing the Urdu news broadcasts entirely and the most likely compromise was to shift them to Doordarshan's less popular second channel.

Mr. Moily summoned 360 paramilitary policemen from Madras to reinforce 600 already helping local police as skirmishes continued Saturday.

Police said Hindu mobs were battling police in Hindu areas and Muslim crowds were attacking police in Muslim areas. Where Hindus and Muslims communities abutted one another, the two communal groups fought each other.

A senior police official said there was no immediate prospect of the curfew being lifted.

"We are worried that the violence might spread," he said.

Among the paramilitary reinforcements were 360 men of the Rapid Action Force sent into Bangalore Friday.

"We may have to call in the army if things get any worse," the senior police officer said.

Karnataka votes for an assembly in two-stage elections on Nov. 26 and Dec. 1.

It is ruled by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party and is a major target of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which sees a good chance of winning power against a bitterly divided Congress.

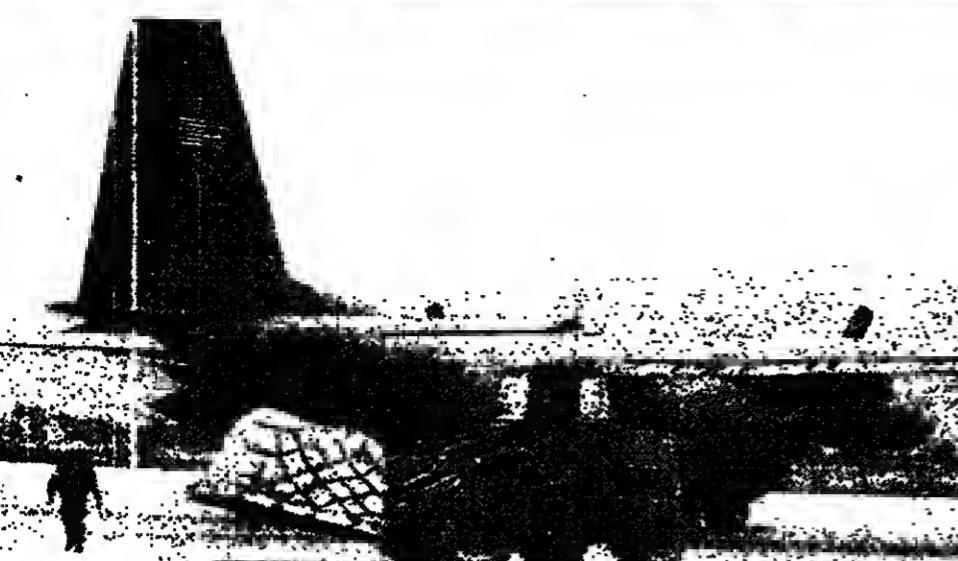
The election seems to have inflamed passions as the BJP increases the political pressure on Congress.

It was a BJP-inspired campaign to remove a politically crucial, though disused, 16th century mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya that sparked the last explosion of Hindu-Muslim violence.

Many Hindus believe the Ayodhya mosque was built on the birthplace of their god, Lord Rama, and some 200,000 zealots tore it down on Dec. 6, 1992.

That set off ugly violence across the country in which about 2,500 people were killed.

Meanwhile, three people were killed in a powerful bomb explosion overnight Friday in the far-eastern Indian state of Assam.



A U.S. Air Force C-130 cargo plane, carrying aid supplies, is unloaded at Sarajevo Airport (AFP photo)

Divided Ukraine marks war anniversary

KIEV (R) — Ukraine, split by its wartime history, celebrated the 50th anniversary of liberation from the Nazis Saturday by staging the country's first major military parade of the post-Soviet era.

Hundreds of soldiers of the fledgling Ukrainian army marched in perfectly formed columns down the city's main thoroughfare, Khreshchatik Street, to patriotic music and Hindi which is spoken by India's 160 million Muslims.

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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1994

Jordan Times

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The job starts at home

IN LESS than three weeks, Casablanca hosts an event that holds out all promises to be yet another turning point in the quest for peace in the Middle East. The Middle East and North Africa economic summit, organised by the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations and the World Economic Forum, is no less important than the international peace conference held in Madrid in 1991 to launch the historic Arab-Israeli negotiations. If the focus of the Madrid conference was the political mechanism to resolve the decades-old Arab-Israeli conflict, the attention of the Casablanca summit will be how to support and sustain the results of the process launched in the Spanish capital. Needless to say, the two aspects of peace are inseparable.

The idea is to ensure that Arab-Israeli peace agreements are sustainable, then the people of the region, who have paid a heavy price in lives, and suffered through the decades for no fault of their own, have to see the fruits of peace reflected on their daily life. The high level unemployment and the increasing "bags" of poverty have to be addressed. In practical terms, this would mean creating more jobs and improving socio-economic services offered by the government.

For Jordan, whose natural resources are limited but where human resources are abundant, the Casablanca summit does indeed represent a forum where it could present its case, in terms of the opportunities the Kingdom offers for investments in all spheres.

At this juncture, the crucial question is: How prepared is Jordan to present an acceptable case in Casablanca?

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has taken the lead in preparing the Jordanian team to Casablanca; not only that, the Crown Prince is closely involved, through the Royal Commission for Reform and Development, in efforts to create the climate that is best suited to attract foreign investors to Jordan.

Indeed, the central theme that the Crown Prince outlined when the commission was established under the directives of His Majesty King Hussein spoke volumes of the philosophy and wisdom behind the Jordanian approach. But we have our misgivings about the level of understanding of the concept by many of our bureaucrats who do not seem to be able to jerk themselves out of the self-admitted pose of lethargy.

What we are facing today is perhaps the biggest economic challenge that Jordan ever confronted. The Casablanca summit cannot be seen in isolation from the rising international competition for capital and investments. That makes our job all the more difficult.

We believe that one of the first steps that needs to be taken, and taken firmly with no compromises, is to ensure that all those occupying positions of responsibility in organisations that have to deal with capital inflow and investments and all other related departments and sections understand the immensity of challenges facing them, and through them, the country as a whole, and act with responsibility and dedication.

After all, Jordan has to make its case heard and accepted not only in Casablanca but also elsewhere in the international capital market if it were to hope for an acceptable level of investments in the Kingdom. We cannot expect anyone else to do the job, and the job starts right at home.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THREE PROBLEMS with the Israelis is that they never stop talking about their desire for peace, but they never mention the Arab rights, said a columnist in Al Ra'i's daily Saturday. The majority of the Arab people, said Mahmoud Rimawi, are convinced that Israel does not want to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories but they want to have a free hand in the Arab World and establish diplomatic ties with all of them. Every day, one can hear the Israeli leaders talking about their desire to reach peace, but they fail to mention whether they are willing to withdraw from Arab lands and give back the land they have been occupying since 1967, said the writer. Both the supporters and opponents of the peace process are in agreement now that the Israelis are dragging their feet over the withdrawal issue and therefore the image of the Israelis in Arab minds has changed and the hatred of the Israelis persists, he added. The road to peace does not come through handshakes and meetings by official delegations, said the writer, adding that real peace can be achieved once all its requirements have been met.

AL DUSTOUR daily accused the United States of creating a crisis over the Iraqi troops movements in order to justify its drive to perpetuate U.N. sanctions on the Iraqi people. Saying that Iraq has complied with all U.N. Security Council resolutions and cooperated fully with the U.N. inspection teams concerning the control of weapons, the paper said that the Iraqi people are in need of relief from the sanctions and are in need of help after so much suffering. The paper said that the U.N. teams have already destroyed Iraq's mass destruction weapons and responded fully to all U.N. demands. But it seems that the United States is not satisfied and wants to bring about a change in government in Baghdad, said the paper. The United States has no right to perpetuate the suffering of the Iraqi people and impose its rule on the people of this region, said the paper. It said that the United States is responsible for the escalation of tension and the possible outbreak of hostilities in the region.



Democrats falling behind in key races

By Alan Elsner

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Polls now suggest U.S. President Bill Clinton's Democrats may lose their seven-seat majority in the Senate and perhaps even their 78-seat advantage in the House of Representatives in the Nov. 8 elections.

As if that weren't a shocking enough prospect for a party that swept triumphantly back into the White House just two years ago, the Republicans could also pick up powerful state governorships now held by Democrats in several key power bases including New York, Texas and Florida.

The hope for Mr. Clinton and his allies is that, with Congress about to adjourn and legislators returning home to fight for survival in earnest, the key weeks of the campaign lie ahead.

Democrats have seized on a Republican unveiling of a "contract with America," billed as a legislative agenda of tax cuts, a balanced budget and term limits for the first 100 days if the party wins control of the House.

Democrats say the programme doesn't add up,

would cause a huge rise in the deficit and would revive the favour-the-rich era of ex-president Ronald Reagan.

But Mr. Clinton's party suffered another blow this week when Texas billionaire Ross Perot urged the millions of people who backed his 1992 independent presidential bid to vote for Republicans in November.

Thirty-five of 100 Senate seats are up for renewal in November as well as all 435 House seats and 36 governors.

Here is a summary of some key political battlegrounds according to opinion polls published in the past week:

— Arizona: Republican candidate Jon Kyl leads Democrat Sam Coppersmith by eight to 12 points for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by influential Democrat Dennis DeConcini.

— Montana: Republican Senator Conrad Burns leads Democratic challenger Jack Mudd by 15 per cent in a state that Democrats thought they could win.

— Ohio: Republican Mike Dewine leads Demo-

crat Joel Hyatt by 12 points in the race to succeed Democratic Senator Howard Metzenbaum, who is Hyatt's father-in-law.

— Oklahoma: Two polls gave contradictory results in the campaign to replace retiring Democratic Senator David Boren, a key voice on U.S. intelligence policy. One put Republican Jim Imhoff five points up on Democrat Dave McCurdy. The other had McCurdy eight points ahead. But Democrats are thought less likely to come out and vote on Nov. 8.

— Pennsylvania: Democratic Senator Harris Wofford was running even with Republican Challenger Rick Santorum.

— Florida: Republican Senator Connie Mack leads Democrat Hugh Huffington, Mr. Clinton's brother-in-law, by 65-70 per cent. In the governor's race, a new poll showed Republican Jeb Bush, son of the former U.S. president, five points ahead of incumbent Democrat Lawton Chiles.

— Minnesota: In a heavily Democratic state, conservative Republican Rod Grams leads Democrat Ann Wynn by two points in the race to succeed Repub-

lican Senator David Durenberger. This is the Democrats' best hope of capturing a Republican seat.

— Washington: Republican Senator Slade Gorton leads Democrat Ron Sims by 10 points.

— New York: A New York Times poll put Republican challenger George Pataki two points up on three-term Democratic governor Mario Cuomo. Only 29 per cent had a favourable opinion of Mr. Cuomo and 57 per cent had no answer when asked what the best thing he had done as governor.

There were a few glimmers of hope for Democrats.

— California: Republican Senate candidate Michael Huffington, who has spent about \$15 million of his own money on his campaign to unseat Democrat Dianne Feinstein, came under heavily critical media focus this week.

In Colorado, Democratic governor Roy Romer surged to a 22-point lead over Republican Bruce Benson in what had been a close race before Mr. Benson admitted to personal controversies.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Access to West Bank market

THE ECONOMIC agreement between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), signed in Amman on Jan. 7, allowed Jordan to trade with the West Bank and Gaza without limitations. The economic agreement between the PNA and Israel signed in Paris on April 29 permitted Jordan to export to the Palestinian market about 15 commodities such as fuel, cement, building bars and some appliances within the limits dictated by the specific capacity of the Palestinian market. The transitional economic agreement signed recently by Jordan and Israel in the Dead Sea meetings gave Jordan the right to export up to \$30 million worth of certain commodities to the West Bank before the end of 1994 as a trial quota.

Nine months after the first agreement, five months after the second agreement and two months after the third agreement, Jordan has not yet started exporting anything to the West Bank, although the current year is about to end.

We suggest that Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) start sending shipments of cement immediately through the bridges without waiting for a letter of credit to be opened in its favour. It should establish distribution centres in Nablus, Hebron and Gaza, where the traders of building materials and individual consumers can buy directly against payment in Jordan dinars.

We also suggest that the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) send its tankers loaded with gasoline across the bridges, and to invite offers to build new gas stations or contract with existing stations to sell Jordanian refined petroleum products priced at 85 per cent of the current Israeli price, against payment in Jordan dinars.

Likewise, Jordanian producers of iron bars, home appliances, furniture and other commodities covered by the Jordanian-Israeli understanding should establish permanent exhibitions in the major cities of the West Bank and Gaza, and fill them with their products for sale directly to the public.

In all the above cases, good sales are guaranteed. The prices of Jordanian products are less expensive and more competitive. Current prices in the occupied territories are artificially high because of the Israeli monopolistic process, as the occupied territories are treated as a captured market, where Palestinians have no choice but to buy Israeli products at any price. No competition exists.

The question, of course, is whether Jordanian access to the West Bank market is still blocked or not, and what are the obstacles in the way, after all the agreements and deadlines. If such obstacles are still in operation, we should identify them and know exactly who is responsible for their continued effect. Inaction is not an acceptable state of affairs. We have the right to know exactly what is preventing Jordanian exports from flowing to the West Bank market now. Is it the bureaucracy of the government of Jordan, lack of initiative on behalf of the Jordanian private sector, the known intransigence and inflexibility of the occupation authorities, or the lack of goodwill on behalf of the Palestinian self-rule authorities.

If something must be done, and some steps must be taken before trade exchange with the West Bank becomes possible, such steps must be clearly identified, the office which should take them must be named, and the reasons delaying the taking of the necessary steps must be pointed out.

Israel seizes more Arab land

By Sarah Helm

FROM HIS hilltop enclave, Shlomo Kattan has a view of the future, and the view is of Israel, as far as the eye can see.

Mr. Kattan is mayor of Alfe Menasheh, a sparkling Jewish settlement built on a rocky ridge about two miles inside the Israel-occupied West Bank. Looking to the west, down across the coastal plain, he sees pink roofs sprawling either side of the old "Green Line" that once marked the division between Israel and the West Bank lands captured in 1967.

Looking north, south and east Mr. Kattan sees more Jewish settlements, crowding strategic hilltops. On the hillsides are Arab villages, clusters of tumble-down houses ringed by settler highways.

Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), would like to believe that the Green Line is still there, and will soon mark out the

western boundary of a Palestinian state.

Unlike Mr. Kattan, however, Mr. Arafat, confined to his Gaza enclave, cannot see what is happening on the ground.

The Oslo declaration of principles states that in the interim period of autonomy, before the final status of the land is discussed, the integrity of the west Bank and Gaza will be preserved. However, the evidence of building shows that Israel is using the interim period to ensure that Mr. Arafat's future territory is too stunted to comprise a viable state.

While Israeli building has

continued, new planning restrictions have been imposed by Israeli military authorities on Arab villages in the West Bank, stopping villagers from building on their own land. The villagers of Rasatiyah cannot build outside an Israeli-imposed boundary around the built-up area. The settlement of Alfe Menasheh is about to start constructing 845 houses on land near to Rasatiyah, that the villa-

gers say is theirs.

As the children of Rasatiyah walk the three miles to their nearest school, they pass close enough to Alfe Menasheh to hear the settler children splashing in their new swimming pool.

Geographical logic suggests that Israel is planning to grant autonomy to Palestinians in the three so-called cantons based around Arab cities: Nablus to the north, Ramallah in the centre and Hebron to the south. A report prepared by the Arab Studies Centre in Jerusalem Israeli military administrators, was presented 10 days ago to Mr. Arafat.

The report shows that since the signing of the Oslo accords, a total of 16,750 acres of West Bank land has been confiscated by Israel, of which 1,885 acres have been built on while the rest is being held for future settlement.

In the same period, 14,111 fruit trees have been uprooted to make way for

roads and new building. Six square miles of land have been confiscated and given over to quarries and four and a half square miles of land have been allocated for nature reserves.

In theory, all such settlement activity should trigger U.S. aid penalties to Israel. But Washington has made no public criticism of the new settlements and has imposed only token penalties.

The Independent

LETTERS

Open education

To the Editor:

I was very interested in your editorial (Free academias frees the mind, Jordan Times, Sept. 29).

In England this subject is also being discussed in universities. Education does not stop when one leaves school or university. Many older men and women, who have many years of varied professional experience, are returning to take higher degrees. Their experience has been at grassroot level and not gained by reading books only. For example, the open university has been a great success for this very reason. The strict, curtailing atmosphere of many universities has never been present in its courses. As a post-graduate student in England, my colleagues and I complained about the attitude of one of the tutors who was condescending in the extreme, to a group of mature men and women of various ethnic backgrounds. Our complaints were taken seriously and he was removed from the course.

Mrs. Barbara Johnston,
The National Task Force for
Establishment of Al Amal
Centre,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

Solution to refugee problem critical for peace — experts

WASHINGTON (USA) — A solution to the thorny Palestine refugee problem, one of the five "final status" issues which remain to be settled between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, was portrayed by four American panelists at a symposium at Georgetown University as critical to "a lasting and just peace in Palestine."

Two of the panelists were of Palestinian origin — Dr. Mohammad Hallaj and Dr. Rashid Khalidi — and the two others were Jewish — Professors Don Peretz and Marc Ellis. They were speaking at a symposium Oct. 6 at Georgetown University sponsored by the university's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS) and the Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine (CPAP), a private Washington-based think-tank.

In welcoming remarks on behalf of CPAP, Dr. Hisham Sharabi said that "any hope for a genuine end to enmity and hate (between Arabs and Jews) ultimately resides in reaching a just settlement of the refugee problem."

According to a fact sheet distributed at the conference,

there are, at present, a total of 4,667,000 Palestinian refugees out of a total of 6,165,000 Palestinian Arabs. The refugee problem and Jerusalem were among the sensitive issues which the Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) deferred to "final status" negotiations due to take place within the next three years.

Nevertheless, the refugee problem is being intermittently discussed by one of the five multilateral groups which were formed under the Madrid peace process formula. The other functional issues are water, economic development, environment, and security.

All the participants keyed their remarks to the U.N. General Assembly resolution (194 of December 11, 1948) supporting the Palestinians' right to return or compensation.

The resolution states, in part, that "...the (Palestinian) refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to

do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the governments or authorities responsible."

Dr. Hallaj, a one-time participant in the multilateral talks on the refugee problem, gave a bird's-eye view of how the issue is being handled in these talks. He maintained that the deliberations there have deteriorated to a discussion of how to "assist" the refugees rather than consider their political and national rights. Dr. Hallaj, executive director of CPAP, is no longer a member of the Palestinian delegation.

Professor Don Peretz, who teaches political science at State University of New York at Binghamton, underlined in his remarks that the question of compensation — not reparation — for Palestinian refugees is vast and "difficult and complicated." This explains, in his opinion, the

decision of the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators of the declaration of principles accord to postpone the issue to the "final status" phase of the negotiations.

There are several issues that need to be resolved in dealing with compensation, he said. Among these were the identification of abandoned Palestinian property which, he said, the U.N. estimated at being over 80 percent of Israel's total area of some 20,000 square kilometres.

The total amount of cultivable area that Israel took over from the Palestinian refugees, he said was "well over one million acres, about two-and-a-half times the total amount of Jewish-owned land" in 1948. In other words, he said the Jewish-owned land at the end of the British mandate in Palestine was about 8.6 percent of the total area of Palestine. "Of the 370 new Jewish settlements established between 1948 and 1953, 350 were on former Arab property."

Other issues that need to be resolved, according to Prof. Peretz, include the relationship between current property values and those of 1948; the status of Israeli counter-claims for war damages and property of Jews from Arab countries and, most importantly, "to what extent will resolution of the compensation issue balance off other political, territorial, or moral claims."

He also expressed belief that the issue of compensation will be "inextricably linked" with refugee resettlement, regional economic development and with the problems of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

His feeling, he added, was that the amount of funding for compensation is "far larger than any single country can provide."

Prof. Peretz said among the "objective technical problems" surrounding this issue of compensation is that it has been reported that "most of the original records of land registration during the mandate were either destroyed during the 1948 war or were otherwise missing." He added that "some records that were microfilmed and taken to England were later found to be illegible."

Prof. Ellis began by noting that earlier Israeli thinkers like Judas Magnes, chancellor of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and his friend, Dr. Martin Buber, "were keenly aware that the creation of Israel... was creating a new diaspora and refugee problem... (which) threatened the morality and safety of a fragile and vulnerable Jewish state."

After detailing some current progressive Jewish thinking on the issue, Prof. Ellis saw "mutual healing" between Palestinians and Israelis in "welcoming back in a structured and orderly way the people who were the original victims of this tragic history," adding, "the welcome involves persons, institutions and geography; Palestinians become equal partners with Jews throughout what was once historic Palestine... (then) the Palestinian diaspora and refugee problem truly comes to an end, rather than being finalised in refugee camps or

migrants."

The fourth element stressed the "right to live in the Palestinian state-to-be" for all Palestinians, or, in other words, "the collective right to return" which he said would obviously be restricted by the new country's absorptive capacity.

His last element contained an appeal for "special attention" to the case of Palestinian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. The former, he believed, could come about "as a result of a constitutional arrangement freely arrived at between democratically elected governments in Jordan and Palestine" such as granting full Jordanian citizenship or a confederation between the two countries.

But in the case of Lebanon, he added, the issue is complicated because of what any Palestinian settlement in that country could do to the "internal Lebanese equilibrium." He ended his talk by suggesting that Palestinians in Lebanon may be granted Palestinian nationality but with permanent resident status in Lebanon.

Military build-up in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

the United States were put on alert to go to the region.

Besides the American show of force, the British Defence Ministry announced it was sending an extra frigate to patrol off Kuwait. France said it was taking the "necessary precautionary measures."

An administration official said the actions were taken because "you want to show you're not going to be intimidated." But the response had been "calibrated" to avoid inflaming the situation, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Another senior official, briefing reporters under ground rules shielding his identity, said one reason for Iraq's move towards Kuwait may be linked to increasingly frequent reports "over the last six months of internal coup attempts, explosions, these kinds of things."

Other U.S. officials suggested that Iraq was hoping to get the sanctions lifted through the threat of force, but they insisted such an effort would be fruitless.

Kuwait said Saturday it has dispatched its entire army of some 20,000 men, backed by tanks and armoured vehicles, to its northern border to ward off any Iraqi attack.

Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah on Saturday chaired an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss "precautionary measures to face any Iraqi threat against Kuwait."

A senior Kuwaiti official later told AFP that "the whole of the Kuwaiti army, backed by armoured vehicles and tanks has received orders to head for the north of the country," adding that units were already on their way.

Russia condemned Iraqi manoeuvres and said Baghdad must recognise its border with its neighbour.

Egypt warned the crisis could escalate further in the next few days, and other Arab countries condemned the Iraqi manoeuvres.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the Arab League was "monitoring the situation and is in contact with Kuwait and other Arab countries."

The Cairo-based League has urged Iraq to pull its troops back from the border and express "anxiety" at the situation.

Saudi Arabia backed the United States in its warning of military action against Baghdad and offered its bases for the use of U.S. warplanes to defend against any Iraqi moves.

Kuwaiti newspapers tried to play down fears of another Iraqi invasion, saying the international community would protect the emirate.

But residents of Kuwait city were clearly alarmed as supermarkets, bakeries and petrol stations were invaded by panic-buyers.

Many Kuwaitis and foreign

nations said they were already planning to flee the emirate.

Iranian state radio said Iraq's troop movements towards Kuwait are a political ploy to pressure the United Nations into lifting its embargo against Baghdad.

"By playing the military card, Iraq wants to show that it is capable of adopting a hostile stand in a bid to have the embargo lifted," the radio said.

It said the United States would "benefit" from the reports of troop movements by playing up the Iraqi threat in a bid to reinforce its illegal presence in the Gulf.

The chief of staff of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council — had originally been scheduled to review a collective air defence umbrella and plans for a 100,000-strong joint defence force first mooted after the 1990 invasion.

But they were expected to focus primarily on the Iraqi military buildup and consider what action they should take if Iraq once again threatens Kuwait.

Kuwait's chief of staff, Ali Al Mo'men, led the emir's delegation to the Saudi capital for Saturday's meeting.

Officials said King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has been in telephone contact with Sheikh Jaber and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, a key ally during the 1990-91 crisis.

The GCC currently has a standing joint force of 10,000 men based in Saudi Arabia. This force was totally ineffective when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Libya accused the United States of overreacting, saying the U.S. furore was just a "cheap Hollywood stunt."

"American stupidity has passed all limits and all that is happening is nothing more than a storm in a teacup and a theatrical spectacle aimed at putting pressure on the Gulf monarchies," the official agency JANA commented.

Israelis shrugged off the possibility of a fresh Iraqi attack, saying they were not worried after surviving Iraq's last missile shower.

In the 1991 Gulf war, Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles into Israel, hoping to provoke Israeli retaliation and break up the Arab coalition formed against Iraq.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday there was no reason for concern.

"I don't think this has any bearing on us," Mr. Peres told Israel army radio.

The secretary-general of the Arab League urged Iraq to exercise self-control and pull back its forces.

Iraq's new escalation "complicates the situation and threatens the peace and security of the region which is still suffering the effects of the 1990 Gulf crisis," Esmat Abdul Meguid said in a written statement.



A social worker distributes medicine to residents of the Indian city of Surat when the plague was widespread (AFP photo)

Indian leadership faulted for plague fallout

By Nelson Graves
Reuter

NEW DELHI — India has accused foreign nations of panicking in the face of an outbreak of plague but diplomats and many Indians say New Delhi has only itself to blame for failing to control the damaging fall-out.

Some of the restrictions imposed by foreign governments have been eased but in many ways their impact is only beginning to be felt.

Indian authorities say the number of tourists has been cut by half as plague-wary travellers shun the country.

Tourist firms hope the numbers will pick up as the disease, which health authorities say is now under control, fades from memory.

Bhabani Sen Gupta of the Centre for Research on International Change said the outbreak could cost India as much as \$10 billion in health expenses and lost business.

Already tourist hotels are panicking. "What is

worse than the cancellation is that there are no bookings coming in," said a senior official at a plush hotel in Goa, a major resort.

Indian officials have accused foreign governments and media of overreacting to the plague. "The press, of course, have had a ball at our expense," a senior tourism ministry official said.

Many business leaders have also slammed the press. "I don't know if it is rats or the press that spread the plague," Ashok Bhatai of ITC hotels said Friday.

But a poll by Doordarshan State Television's Eyewitness new programme showed nearly two thirds of Delhi's citizens faulted the government for failing to mount a damage-control operation and reassure foreign partners.

"There was no effort to

manage the political or psychological fallout," one diplomat said.

"It bothers me the way politicians took panic and ran away," Mr. Gupta said, referring to the fact no national leaders went to Surat when the plague first broke out.

"It was not only a health disaster, it was a political disaster," he said. "The political leadership collapsed."

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has made no public statement on the disease.

"The plague has done more damage to economic reforms than one would like to admit," Mr. Gupta said. "In the long term one will have to wait and see if India is able to absorb the shock of modernisation."

Israel welcomes Sharra interview

(Continued from page 1)

ence to which Israeli journalists had been invited for the first time marked a "change in the peace process."

"If the Israeli public is not convinced about what is going into an agreement, then there is not going to be an agreement," Mr. Ross said.

Mr. Sharra promised Israel a new era of peace in return for a withdrawal from the Golan in his interview from Washington, which was broadcast on Friday.

"We have done all that is necessary in order to convince ... that peace is coming and we are not wasting our time," he told viewers. "We have as much interest in peace as you have."

Syria meanwhile attacked the Gulf and other Arab states on Saturday for their policies towards Israel.

Jewish state a free opportunity to change its tune on the Golan Heights.

A front-page editorial in the government newspaper Al Thawra said Israeli statements on the Golan this week differed from those of last week, before the Gulf states said they were scrapping the secondary and tertiary boycotts of Israel.

Tunisia also announced it was establishing low-level ties with Israel and an Israeli diplomat arrived in Morocco to open his country's first office there.

"Imagine the change in Israeli political discourse this week," after our Arab brothers announced they were lifting the boycott and many other things besides ... just like that, for free, without being asked, and of course for nothing in exchange, just out of charity and on the eve of (U.S.)

But this would not weaken Syria or lead to any change in Syria's demand for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Christopher's tour," Al Thawra said.

While last week Israel was merely contradictory, this week it was also "full of bluster, arrogance and defiance," added the editorial, signed by editor Amid Khouri.

It singled out a decision to give Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Barak special responsibility for preparing Israel's negotiating position on the Golan Heights.

Al Thawra said the change in Israeli political discourse this week, after our Arab brothers announced they were lifting the boycott and many other things besides ... just like that, for free, without being asked, and of course for nothing in exchange, just out of charity and on the eve of (U.S.)

Meanwhile, a special Algerian court has sentenced 152 people to death 139 of them for contempt of court, during the past three months. El Moudjahid reported Saturday.

There are still around 1,000 French expatriates residing in Algeria, along with 40,000 people with dual French and Algerian nationality.

French national found in Algeria, his throat slit

(Continued from page 12)

regime in Algeria. Two months ago it renewed its threat to strike against French interests unless Paris met six conditions, including the evacuation of French nationals from Algeria.

The special court, one of three jurisdictions responsible for terrorism and subversion trials, tried 136 cases between July 1 and September 30.

There are still around 1,000 French expatriates residing in Algeria, along with 40,000 people with dual French and Algerian nationality.

PLO, Israel resume talks today

(Continued from page 1)

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Israel has said it would not free Palestinians who killed Israelis or supporters of groups who refuse to sign a

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Jordan Times Tel: 667171

8 Economy

Arab food gap widens despite large arable lands

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states are relying heavily on farm imports to feed their people despite having enough arable land at their disposal, an official report has said.

The 22 members of the Arab League imported \$13.7 billion worth of foodstuffs in 1992 compared with \$13.03 billion in 1991, said the report by the Khartoum-based Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD).

Exports were still far lagging behind imports, creating a food gap of \$9.77 billion in 1992 and \$8.63 billion in 1991, said the report, published by the United Arab Emirates semi-official daily Al Ittihad.

It was the latest official report on the Arab food sector, which attracts nearly a third of the Arab workforce.

Lack of funds and technology as well as a poor infrastructure, inadequate farm policies and failure to exploit

the cultivated areas has meant the food gap, the difference between exports and imports, has persisted for decades.

Official Arab estimates show less than a quarter of the region's total arable area of around 145 million hectares is being exploited.

Wars and political instability in such fertile countries as Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon are also blamed for the low productivity.

The gap has steadily widened over the past 15 years, reaching more than \$150 billion, according to the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund.

The oil-rich Gulf states have remained the biggest Arab food importers given their arid desert, with farm imports exceeding \$8 billion a year.

AOAD, one of the Arab League's main institutions, said cereal topped the Arab food imports list, accounting

for 36 per cent, followed by dairy products, oil and fat, sugar and meat.

Egypt emerged as the biggest cereals importer, accounting for 20 per cent of the total Arab cereal imports. Saudi Arabia imported 10 per cent, Morocco eight per cent, and Libya, Iraq and Yemen, seven per cent each.

The report showed cereal production in the Arab World declined to 39.8 million tonnes in 1992 from 42.9 million tonnes in 1991 and its cultivated areas dropped to 27.9 million hectares from 28.5 million hectares.

Wheat output, which accounts for 47 per cent of the total cereal production, plunged by 15 per cent in 18.7 million tonnes from 21.9 million tonnes.

"The decline is mainly due to a serious deterioration in production in Iraq and Morocco due to scarce rain and a drop in cultivated areas and productivity," the study said.

Recycling foreshadows job boom, study says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scavengers in the Philippines, auto junkyards and mechanics in America, garbage collectors in Mali, single mothers in Mississippi, designers in Holland, lawmakers in Germany.

All were described in a report as pioneers in economic change promising millions of new jobs.

In its study, Worldwatch Institute, a private, Washington-based conservative organisation, called the changes "the next efficiency revolution."

They involve harnessing human ingenuity and effort to reduce consumption of natural resources and energy through reuse of wastes and innovative design, said authors John Young and Aaron Sachs.

"The biggest payoff may eventually be in the most

endangered and precious of all assets: Jobs," they said.

Recycling is moving from its supporting role in waste disposal to a preferred method of getting the maximum return from a shrinking supply of virgin resources, said the report.

Steel, packaging, timber and other resource-based industries are resisting, it said. But Worldwatch predicted the "revolution" will come from the combined political pressure of environmentalists, taxpayers and rural and urban communities distressed by unemployment, "down-sized" industries and floods of waste.

"The biggest boom" could be in engineering and design, as companies develop processes for extracting and combining reusable and scrap with smaller amounts of new material, Mr. Sachs said.

And builders and architects would give more attention to landscaping, natural lighting and bearing economies, far offsetting custom design costs.

In Amsterdam, for instance, the Internationale Nederlanden Bank erected a new headquarters in 1987 that, thanks to careful interdisciplinary design, uses 90 per cent less energy than its predecessor, boosted worker productivity and cut absenteeism 15 per cent.

Recycling has become a growth industry in the United States, where 39 per cent of the population is now served by nearly 6,700 municipal curbside pickup programmes. But government direction is much more aggressive in Europe, especially Germany, the study said.

Germany's 1991 packaging ordinance made industry re-

sponsible for waste, bringing "virtual elimination of certain types of redundant packaging" such as boxes for toothpaste tubes.

"Similar programmes are being developed for automobiles and electronics."

Gulf coast recycling in Mississippi employs mostly minority women and single mothers, both providing jobs and easing social stress in a high unemployment area, Worldwatch said.

A private company in Bamako, Mali, called Gie Besuya collects and sorts municipal waste, turning part of it not saleable composts.

The World Bank has begun supporting the Philippines' Lanais "Clean and beautiful" network of scavengers who comb reusable trash from Manila trash, a programme that Worldwatch said has spawned numerous small businesses.

World Bank: Development of financial market tops Russian reform programme

ive."

By the end of June, some 85,000 small businesses and 12,000 to 14,000 medium and large concerns had been privatised, allowing some 144 million Russians to become stockholders, the bank reported.

But these stockholders are mainly the former employees or directors of these firms and it is still necessary to enlarge the pool of Russian stockholders and press on with efforts to liberalise title transfers, the bank said.

To that end, some 650 private investment funds have been created.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 9, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is an unusually good day and evening for you to instinctively fit in with the best of circumstances and conditions about you. Put your best foot forward with everyone and reap the benefits.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Although you may feel hemmed in, don't let it upset you and go along with present situations. Avoid disagreements with close friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) Handle your own affairs yourself today since friends and acquaintances could be disappointing with their suggestions. Enjoy a quiet evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is not a good day to be in the outside world or to argue with any higher-ups. Think over credit affairs and plan to pay soon.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Seriously study any philosophical matters and get the most out of them. Keep out of problem situations and be happy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't take any risks in conversations with others today, since everyone seems to be under some kind of tension and anxiety.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It is best to be cooperative with any partners since opposition could bring much trouble to you. Take things in stride for success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Forget business worries which can best be handled tomorrow and get a good day's rest. Enjoy a quiet evening at home with your mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to really live the good life and be kind toward others who are having a difficult time. Don't overspend on things.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You and kin may feel hemmed in today, but let faith make you more courageous and outgoing. Avoid moot subjects which are not beneficial.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may be feeling pugnacious today, so calm down and be more objective and thoughtful towards others. Take time to study an idea.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If going over financial status, plan how to save money in the future instead of spending it. Seek advisors for financial suggestions.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You feel upset and irate today, so think pleasant thoughts and go to charming places to snap out of it. Avoid large groups of people today.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

Japan approves 630 trillion yen public works programme

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese government Friday approved a 10-year, 630 trillion yen (\$6.3 trillion) public works programme from April 1995 to improve infrastructure and living conditions in an aging society, officials said.

The programme — which should also stimulate the economy, boosting domestic demand for imports — will replace the current 430 trillion yen 10-year programme scheduled to end March 2001, the officials said.

The programme would increase fund allocation for the improvement of living conditions, welfare and cultural amenities in Japan from 60 per cent of the total funds to as much as 65 per cent, an economic research staff said.

It also provides for the supply of 1.6 million houses in the centre of major cities, improved sewerage services, and better traffic safety facilities for the handicapped and elderly.

It also calls for development of an optical fiber network, led by the private sector.

Also provided for is the introduction of new waste disposal system, in which resources and energy will be efficiently recycled.

The plan, which was endorsed by the cabinet Friday, was based on a recommendation made Thursday by an Economic Planning Agency panel.

Economic Planning Agency Director-General Masahiko Komura told a press conference after the cabinet meeting that the programme would "for sure help contribute (to boosting the) domes-

tic demand-led economy."

He said he believed the plan would be "rated sufficiently overseas" in terms of its benefits in improving the country's current account imbalance.

The United States and other major industrialised nations have repeatedly called on Japan to reduce its huge current account surplus.

Mr. Komura added that the government was not considering a further hike in the controversial consumption tax. Japan last month adopted a tax reform plan which increased the consumption tax from current three per cent to five per cent from April 1997.

Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura at a separate press conference said a further hike in the tax was "not a precondition" for funding the plan.

International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto welcomed the plan, calling for early implementation of measures mapped in it.

"We need to (bring) forward the implementation as much as possible," he was quoted as saying at a separate press conference Friday.

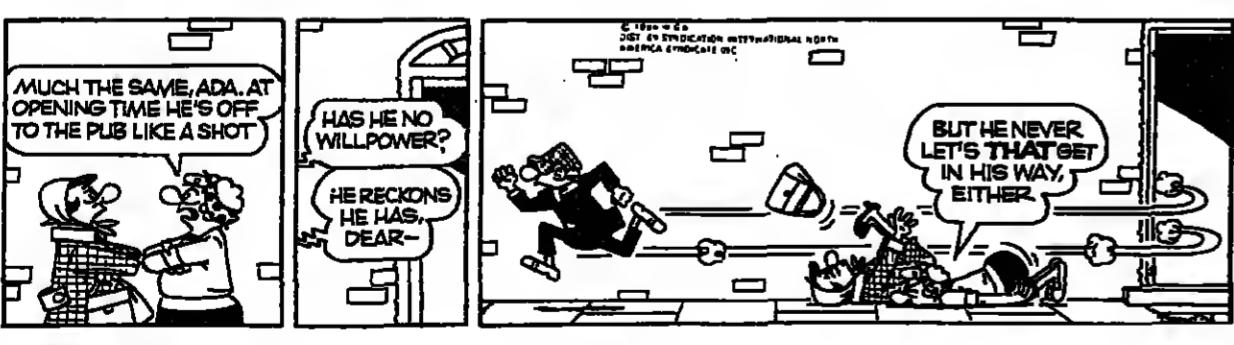
The programme would lead to a meaningful shrinkage in Japan's global current account surplus, he said.

While the plan is seen by analysts as a bid by Japan to improve trade relations with its major partners by showing willingness to reduce its current account surplus, details of how the government would actually implement the programme were not yet available, they said.

Peanuts



Andy Capp

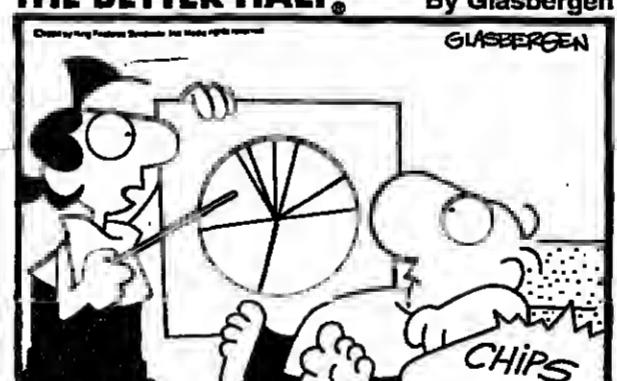


Mutt'n'Jeff



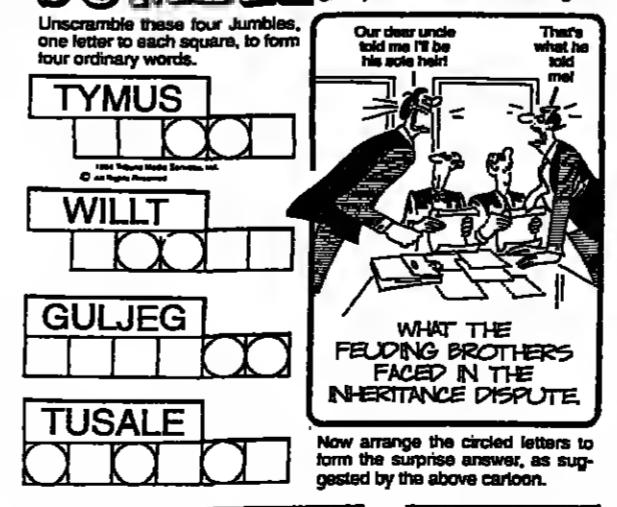
THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

by Hazel Arnold and Mike Argilton



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.
Answer here: A [circle] [circle] [circle] [circle] [circle] OF [circle] [circle] [circle] [circle] [circle]

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FAIRY BARON GYRATE NUANCE
Answer: What the fast company had — A BANNER YEAR

THE Daily Crossword

by Gayle Dean

ACROSS :

1 Valenciaines

5 Florida bay

14 Biblical prophet

15 Hell or shoe

16 Far-out one

17 High-in-the-sky

19 Certain atom

20 Frozen

21 Actor Howard

22 Not (Teekay)

23 Modern

superstition?

27 Dumbfounded

28 Grouper's piece

29 Mill person

32 Reprove

34 Wise

35 Dobbin

36 Way on base

39 Encouraging

words in

40 Overlook

41 Tiers

Average

43 Black

44 Alto

45 Unhelpful

49 Date

52 And so forth:

abbr.

53 Megalomaniac's

54 Camelion

55 Worried

56 That hurts!

60 Zisch

61 Correct

62 Humped creature

63 Hill dweller

DOWN :

1 Rabbit fur

2 Head

3 Investment

4 Ad agency

employees

Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1994 9

Financial Markets		Jordan Times	
		in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank	
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close Date: 6/10/94	Tokyo Close Date: 7/10/94	
Sterling Pound*	1.5908 -	1.5658	
Deutsche Mark	1.5440	1.5470	
Swiss Franc	1.2600	1.2604	
French Franc	5.2780	5.2855	
Japanese Yen	99.84	100.01	
European Currency Unit	1.2382 **	1.2345	
* AND PTG STC ** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT			
Emergency Interest Rates Date: 8/10/1994			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS 12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.93	5.45	5.62 5.95
Sterling Pound	5.31	5.81	6.37 7.00
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.00	5.12 5.50
Swiss Franc	3.75	4.00	4.12 4.50
French Franc	5.31	5.62	5.87 6.37
Japanese Yen	2.09	2.18	2.31 2.56
European Currency Unit	5.56	6.00	6.25 6.86
Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.			
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 8/10/1994			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.498	0.700	
Sterling Pound	1.1057	1.1112	
Deutsche Mark	0.4507	0.4530	
Swiss Franc	0.5439	0.5466	
French Franc	0.1319	0.1326	
Japanese Yen*	0.6931	0.6966	
Dutch Guilder	0.4029	0.4049	
Swedish Krona	---	---	
Italian Lira ²	0.0443	0.0445	
Belgian Franc	---	---	
* For 100			
Other Currencies Date: 8/10/1994			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8350	1.8550	
Lebanese Lira ²	0.041006	0.042375	
Saudi Riyal	0.1830	0.1875	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5100	2.5500	
Qatari Riyal	0.1904	0.1925	
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150	
Oman Riyal	1.7930	1.8180	
UAE Dirham	0.1693	0.1704	
Greek Drachma ²	0.2735	0.3145	
Cypriot Pound	1.3960	1.5050	
For 100			

Japan warns Asia, L. America over abrupt change in capital flow

MADRID (AFP) — Bank of Japan governor Yasuaki Mieno has warned Asia and Latin America to be wary of abrupt changes in capital flows, urging the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to devote more resources to this area.

"The developing countries of Asia and Latin America continue to show high growth and attract massive capital flows," the Japanese central bank chief told the Interim Committee of the IMF at its 43rd annual meeting in Madrid.

Mr. Mieno said this was "encouraging" as such flows were "crucial source for growth" in developing countries.

"However, this is also an important macro economic policy issue for these developing countries in that an abrupt change in capital flows could prove disruptive to their domestic financial and

capital markets," he said. Mr. Mieno urged Asian and Latin American countries to continue stable macroeconomic policies and "strengthen measures to adjust monetary conditions in domestic markets in order to cope with sudden changes in flows."

The fund should continue to devote even greater research efforts in this area, and to stand ready to respond flexibly to the changes in the world economy and financial markets as a provider of catalytic resources with a view to encouraging the borrowing countries to adopt adjustment policies," he said.

Japan is a leading investor in Asia, ranking as the top provider of direct investment in Asian securities markets. Short-term capital flows from Japan are also increasing as Japanese banks refocus their global lending towards Asia.

World airlines to require 13,400 planes over next twenty years

PARIS (AFP) — World airlines will need some 13,400 new planes over the next 20 years, worth a total of \$1,000 billion, according to the European aircraft manufacturer Airbus Industrie.

Some 31 per cent of orders will come from South East Asia, 33 per cent from North America and 24 per cent from Europe, the manufacturer has said.

Some 41 per cent of orders will come from the world's top 13 airline companies.

Of the 8,500 airliners in service at the end of 1991, 83 per cent will have to be re-

placed by the year 2011.

Over the next 20 years, airline traffic should increase by an annual rate of 5.4 per cent, with the Asia-Pacific region growing at 7.4 per cent a year.

Large capacity aircraft will offer 71 per cent of seats over this period, compared to 29 per cent for single-aisle aircraft.

Nearly 40 per cent of new orders will be for large capacity aircraft.

Airbus believes the construction of an A3XX-type aircraft, with a capacity of 850 passengers, would offer

Business as usual in Gulf despite Iraqi troop build up

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Banking and stocks activity in the Gulf remained normal while ships continued to ply the waters on Saturday despite the reports of Iraqi troop movements near the Kuwaiti border, dealers said.

Unlike in Kuwait where people flooded supermarkets and huddled around television and radio sets, there was no unusual activity in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other Gulf countries.

"What is happening between Kuwait and Iraq has had no impact on our business and dealings with other banks in the region. There was also no unusual withdrawal of money," a UAE bank manager told AFP.

"I don't see any justification for panic because the situation now is quite different from that which occurred before the 1990 invasion," he said.

Japan's Mitsubishi leads the field with 16.9 per cent of the market followed by Subaru (15.8 per cent) and Fiat on 10.8 per cent.

From March, Jaguar will offer three basic models ranging from \$100,000 to \$133,000, said the firm's new representative Yair Ankori.

"We've already taken an order for the most expensive model," Mr. Ankori said.

The Bank of Israel has predicted five per cent growth in Gross National Product this year compared with 3.4 per cent last year. Imports have surged more than 11 per cent in the first half of the year compared with the same period of 1993.

"The reason while oil prices increased yesterday is that they are generally very sensitive to any factor. The increase was quite natural," one exporter said.

"Iraq's actions could have sent some shock waves across the region but I do not think Western powers will allow it to bully the region any more," a UAE-based Western diplomat said.

"Ironically, it is benefiting Gulf states. Imagine how much a \$1 rise in oil prices means for countries which produce nearly one fifth of the world's crude output," he pointed out.

Crude prices rocketed above \$40 just after Iraq troops seized Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, and threatened Saudi Arabia and other Gulf producers.

The invasion caused a market loss of around four million barrels per day due to a halt in Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude exports. But prices quickly fell when Saudi Arabia and other producers maximized output.

A UAE stockbroker also reported business as usual on Saturday. "There were several transactions in the stock market today. Investors appear not bothered by the developments in Iraq," he said.

"Many of them believe Iraq is just bluffing. They think it will not dare attack Kuwait because the emirate has defense pacts with several countries and an attack will only harden the U.N. stance against lifting the embargo," he added.

Shipping sources said there was no unusual activity in Gulf waters apart from intensified coast guard patrols in the UAE to intercept vessels coming from plague-hit India.

The United States, which has the biggest foreign naval presence in the Gulf, said Friday it was despatching an aircraft carrier while Britain planned to send a frigate to Kuwait at its request.

Israeli car market booms

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Car sales are booming in Israel and with record figures predicted for 1994 British luxury manufacturer Jaguar has decided to seek a share of the market for the first time.

Some 106,000 private cars were sold in Israel last year and the importers' association expects the numbers to soar to 115,000 for 1994.

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S. Korea moves into 2nd in gold-medal race

Asian Games

HIROSHIMA (AP) — China's Lu Bin swam to her fourth gold medal of the Asian Games Saturday, thanks in part to a slip by her world record-holding teammate, while South Korea edged into second in the gold standings.

Xiong Guoming, of the weaker men's part of the Chinese swimming team, also won a fourth gold.

While the Chinese were completing a clean sweep of all the women's swimming races here and padding their lead in the overall medals race, five nations — Malaysia, Vietnam, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan — were winning their first golds of the games.

In all, 11 different nations won golds Saturday, including Syria in swimming, Taiwan in taekwondo and Kazakhstan in shooting and weightlifting.

South Korea advanced in the standings with victories in

archery and shooting and two in its native fighting art of taekwondo.

Japan, with golds in bowling and swimming, fell to third in golds but gained a measure of revenge on the Chinese swimmers by beating them by 3½ seconds in the final race on the programme, the men's 400-metre medley relay.

China's four swimming golds for the day, two in shooting and one each in fencing and table tennis gave it a total of 62, to South Korea's 24 and Japan's 22. Kazakhstan had four, Taiwan and Syria two each, and the five new gold medalists — Iran and India one each.

In total medals, China led with 116 to 88 for Japan and 51 for South Korea. Kazakhstan had 21 and Taiwan 15.

Meanwhile, games officials formally announced the expulsion of Thailand's soccer captain, Sirisak Kadalee, for

taking a performance-enhancing drug.

Beckenbauer to stand as Bayern chairman

BONN (R) — Franz Beckenbauer will run for the post of chairman of German champions Bayern Munich, the club he joined as a fresh-faced teenager in the 1960s and led to a string of triumphs in the 1970s.

The nomination of Beckenbauer, who both captained and coached West Germany to World Cup triumphs, was announced at a news conference Friday night after a meeting of the Bayern board.

Beckenbauer was seen as the ideal compromise candidate, saving Germany's wealthiest and most successful club from a potentially damaging internal battle for office.

Board members had feared a fight for the top job be-

tween current chairman Fritz Scherer, who wanted to stay in office, and vice-chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, like Beckenbauer a former captain of West Germany.

The meeting nominated Scherer and Rummenigge as vice-chairmen.

Defending champions Bayern are anxious to avoid major internal rows after a far from convincing start to the season under new Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

The candidates' names need to be approved by the club's members at a meeting month.

The sports agency SID said Beckenbauer, who had previously denied any interest in the Bayern job, changed his mind in a closed-door meet-

ing with top board members in Munich Thursday which lasted 2½ hours.

"Kaiser" Franz inspired football fans worldwide in the 1960s and 1970s with his cool authority, rare skill and creative interpretation of the libero role he virtually invented.

He captained West Germany when they won the 1974 World Cup on home soil and led them to the trophy once more as team chief at the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Beckenbauer, who led Bayern to three consecutive European Cup triumphs in the mid-1970s, came back in an emergency to coach the club to the German league title in 1994.

Although he turns 50 next year, the Bavarian postman's son still looks as lean and fit

as in his playing days and it has seemed almost inevitable he would end up running Bayern.

With his impeccable jackets and suits, diplomacy and love of golf, Beckenbauer, currently one of Bayern's vice-chairmen, looks every inch the top-class executive.

He had a brief, unsuccessful spell helping guide French club Marseille but failure is rare for the versatile Bavarian who has also turned his hand to doing advertisements for a Japanese computer firm and appearing as a television presenter.

Asked whether Beckenbauer could continue with all his other media commitments and still be an efficient Bayern president, Scherer said: "If his name is Franz Beckenbauer, yes he can."

Xiong finished with four golds and one silver, but he was the only victory of the day for the Chinese men, who took gold in eight of 16 races in all.

Japan won the men's 400 medley relay in an Asian record 3:41.70, with China second in 3:45.28.

Syria's Hisham Masri won the men's 1,500 in a games record of 15:29.70. Nearly two seconds ahead of Japan's Masato Hirano.

Completing the sweep for the women were Liu Limin, who led a Chinese 1-2 sweep in the 200 butterfly in an Asian record 2:06.72. And He Cihong, who led another 1-2 finish in the 200 backstroke in a games record 2:09.46.

South Korea swept all three medals in women's individual archery. Lee Eun-Kyoung beat Lim Jung-Ah 9-8 in a shoot-out for the gold. And teammate Han Hee-Jeong beat Mongolia's Jargal

two silvers.

Xiong won the 200 individual medley in a games record 2 minutes, 3.29 seconds, with Thailand's Ratapong Sirisanon second in 2:04.16.

Orton by the same score in another shoot-out for the bronze.

In its native sport of taekwondo, however, it managed only two golds in four weight classes. It had no entries in the other two divisions.

Chin Seung-Tae, South Korea, stopped Jordan's Mohammad Sari Zu'bi for the flyweight title and Kim Kyun-Yong beat the Philippines' Robert Vargas in featherweight.

But Vietnam's Tran Quang Ha beat S. Alfons Lung Tek-wan Berain of Indonesia for gold in Bantamweight, and Chang Jung-San of Taiwan outpointed Riyandi Lugi of Indonesia for the finweight title.

Japan's Kengo Yamamoto and Hiroshi Yamamoto became double gold medalists when they teamed with Koseku Tatemoto for victory in men's trios bowling. The pair earlier had taken the doubles gold.



Jordan wins 1st medal

Jordan's Mohammad Sari Zu'bi leans on with Zu'bi taking the silver, Jordan's first South Korea's Chin Seung-Tae after being injured during their flyweight taekwondo final bout Saturday at the 12th Asian Games. Chin Crown Prince Hassan congratulating him on the achievement (AFP photo)

UAE team lives in luxury

HIROSHIMA (R) — Japanese newspapers have blasted the United Arab Emirates soccer team for using its wealth to avoid staying in the cramped athletes village at the Asian Games.

"They're so rich," read the headline in one newspaper on Saturday.

The newspaper said the UAE team were staying at a 20,000 yen (\$200) a night luxury hotel in Fukuoka and are commuting to their games in Hiroshima by bullet train, a journey which takes one hour.

"The village is unpleasant because there are nine in one room and only one shower," one newspaper quoted a UAE official as saying.

"It's better to stay in Fukuoka at the village," he said.

The criticism comes with the UAE leading Group D in the games soccer tournament with 4 points while Japan is tied for second with Qatar with two points each.

Only two teams advance and the UAE and Qatar play Sunday while Japan takes on Burma.

The Japanese team are also staying outside the village but the newspapers did not say where.

"She (Sukova) hit the winners. She played very well. I played the best I could but lost. I kept trying but she was better on the big points. And I made a lot of unforced errors," Navratilova said.

The American, ranked fourth in the world and

beaten finalist here in the last two years, added: "I am naturally very disappointed. This was one I wanted so much to win on my last visit."

With world number one Steffi Graf of Germany absent because of injury, this tournament was deemed to be the easiest for Navratilova to win before her final bow.

But she was unable to get her swerving left-handed serve working throughout much of the two-hour match.

Her famed serve and volley game was rarely in evidence and when she did go to the net she was frequently left stranded as Sukova passed her with ease.

Sukova, who fell out of the top 10 in 1989, said: "This win is a great boost for any morale. I have been playing well in the first two rounds and was very confident but I surprised even myself by some points that I won."

Ramos hoaxed by false report of gold medal

MANILA (R) — Philippine swimmer Akiko Thomson was puzzled by President Fidel Ramos' message Friday congratulating her on winning her country's first gold medal at the Asian Games in Hiroshima. She had finished last in Wednesday's race. A facsimile message sent to Ramos' office that the swimmer had come first in the women's 100 metres backstroke was a hoax, according to a Ramos press office statement. Ramos' office basly withdrew the congratulatory message late Friday after being told Thomson had not won a medal.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

DIRECT THE DEFENSE

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

* A 7 4 2

* Q J 5

* Q 6

* A 10 8 4

EAST

* J 6

* A K 3

* 10 8 5 4 2

* Q J 6 3

SOUTH

* K 10 9 3

* 10 7 4 2

* A 9

* K 3

The bidding:

East South West North

1 NT 2 + Pass 2 +

Pass 4 + Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of

There was a slight misplay that went unnoticed when the deal croppered up in a rubber-bridge game. Can you spot the perpetrator and the slip?

Both North and South were a little surprised at the result. However, the final result was a reasonable bridge game and, as the cards lay, the opening lead had declarer on hand.

Dummy's jack of hearts was played to the first trick and East won with the king of hearts. Since it did not seem right to shift to a minor suit or continue hearts, East returned a trump.

West took the ace of trumps and, thinking that the opening lead had started off with the nine of hearts, that was the end of the defense. The declarer had taken the ace of hearts, but declarer was able to draw trumps, discard a diamond from dummy on the 13th heart and claim 10 tricks.

Did you spot the subtle error that made all the difference to the hand? East should have cashed a heart continuation would be urgent, so the declarer should have won the first trick with the ace of hearts! Now when West is in with the ace of trumps, a ruff of a diamond discard from dummy on hearts is real and a diamond shift is impulsive. That assures the defenders of four tricks.

Terence Reese expressed it so well: "Every defender thinks from time to time about discarding declarer. Not so obvious are the occasions when it is advisable to misrepresent one's hand to partner for a tactical reason."

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</div

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1994 11

JORDAN SOCCER LEAGUE

Al Wihdat takes lead as Al Hussein drops to 2nd place

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After five weeks atop the first division soccer standings, Al Hussein conceded first place to Al Wihdat after surprisingly losing 2-0 to Al Ramtha in the sixth week of the competition grouping the Kingdom's top 12 teams.

The latest results demonstrated most teams' resolve and ambitions as standings changed significantly with five weeks left before the first leg is concluded Nov. 11.

Al Wihdat took the lead after their 1-0 win over 11th place Al Jeeel; newcomers Kufraoum moved to fifth place after their spectacular 3-1 win over Al Ahli who dropped to seventh place. Meanwhile, Al Faisali scored an expected but important 4-0 win over Al Karmel but remained in fourth place; Al Jazireh moved to sixth place after defeating Al Qadissieh 2-1, while Al Arabi also moved up after their impressive 4-1 win over Shabab Al Hussein who dropped to tenth place.

Al Ramtha's 2-0 win ended Al Hussein's unbeaten record. However, Al Hussein

still have the best scoring record at 20-6.

Although Al Hussein had more chances to score and went on an early offensive, Al Ramtha concentrated on defence and Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib gave them a 1-0 lead in the 20th minute.

Abu Hdeib and Badran Al Shaqran led Al Ramtha's attacks as they clearly had the upper hand in the match while their opponents seemed slack in defence.

Al Ramtha's Hussein Al Shanainh sealed his team's vital win when he scored three minutes before the end.

Al Ramtha will next have a solid chance to improve their third place standing when they meet last placed Al Karmel in the seventh week of the competition which begins Wednesday.

At Al Mafrat Stadium, titleholders Al Faisali did not have any difficulty scoring an impressive win over Al Karmel as they had total control of the match and allowed their opponents to threaten their goal only once. Losing half a dozen scoring chances, they finally opened scoring by Mousa Awad in the 33rd minute, Subhi Suleiman 41st minute, Jiryes Tadros 55th

minute, and Ziyad Abu Shabab 88th minute.

Al Faisali, going after their 26th first division title, nevertheless remained in fourth place for now and will next face Al Qadissieh.

Al Qadissieh who maintained fourth position throughout most of the competition last year dropped to ninth place after losing 2-1 to Al Jazireh who played one of their best matches yet at Amman Stadium.

Al Jazireh's Walid Fataftah was instrumental in securing both his team's goals. Murad Oweinah scored first for Al Jazireh from a header in the 9th minute.

Al Qadissieh equalised by Ihab Ma'ali halfway through the first half.

Fataftah again gave Oweinah a clear pass to score their winning goal in the 61st minute, as Al Jazireh's players lost at least four other definite scoring chances but nevertheless secured a win to move up to 6th place.

Al Wihdat could only manage a 1-0 win over lowly Al Jeeel by a goal from striker Jihad Abdul Mun'im in the 31st minute.

Al Ahli fell back to seventh place after their 3-1 loss to

Kufraoum who shocked their opponents when they scored their first two goals by Thamer Obeidat and Mohammad Faisal in the 4th and 7th minutes of the match.

Kufraoum seemed determined to clinch the win as they scored the third goal by Suleiman Obeidat in the 44th minute.

Husam Hammash netted Al Ahli's face-saving goal in the 85th minute.

Al Arabi, who had scored only three goals throughout the past five weeks, scored four against Shabab Al Hussein and gained two points to move up to eighth place.

Al Arabi's Subhi opened scor-

ing for Al Arabi in the 4th minute, and only a minute later Ayman Al Omari scored the second goal.

Al Arabi's players continued to attack realising that they had a valid chance to upgrade their scoring record.

Shabab Al Hussein scored their only goal by Ramadan in the 75th minute.

Two minutes later Al Arabi affirmed their win with the goal by Mohammad Alawneh in the 77th minute, while Omari scored his second and his team's fourth goal in the final minute of the match.

A total of 19 goals were scored in the sixth week compared to 21 in the fifth week.

Standings after 4th week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihdat	6	6	—	—	9	1	12
Hussein	5	5	—	1	20	6	10
Ramtha	6	3	3	—	10	3	9
Faisali	6	3	2	1	12	3	8
Kufraoum	4	2	—	2	16	15	5
Jazireh	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
Ahli	6	2	2	2	7	9	5
Arabi	6	2	1	3	7	12	5
Qadissieh	6	1	1	4	5	13	3
Shabab Al Hussein	6	1	1	4	9	16	3
Jeeel	6	—	1	5	3	12	1
Karmel	6	—	—	6	2	15	—

Becker criticises new tennis rules, chiefs

SYDNEY (R) — Boris Becker Saturday bitterly criticised new rules designed to make tennis more exciting, accusing the sport's ruling body of "moving in completely the wrong direction."

In an astonishing tirade following his semifinal win over Mark Woodforde at the Australian Indoor championships, the former Wimb-

ledon champion said the International Tennis Federation (ITF) treated the world's top players as "puppets."

"I don't know why they want to hurt the game like

this — and they are the governing body," Becker, a five-time Grand Slam winner, told reporters.

"I feel like a puppet because no-one has asked me

London (AFP) — Nottingham Forest missed the chance to top of the English Premiership Saturday, but saved their magnificent unbeaten run in a thrilling 3-3 draw at Manchester City.

Al Arabi's players continued to attack realising that they had a valid chance to upgrade their scoring record.

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A total of 19 goals were scored in the sixth week compared to 21 in the fifth week.

Forest, unbeaten in 20 matches since March last season — but missing Dutch striker Bryan Roy — looked destined for defeat as they trailed 3-2 at Maine Road with only a minute to go.

Stan Collymore had

scored their only goal by Ramadan in the 75th minute.

Southampton noticed

their fifth successive win, thanks to Channel Islands magician Matthew le Tissier.

Despite losing goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar with a facial injury after only five minutes, Southampton soon had the match by the scruff of the neck — Le Tissier sending through a superb ball for Dane Ronny Ekelund to open the scoring in the 19th minute.

Liverpool moved into third place after two goals from Robbie Fowler earned them a 2-3 win over Aston Villa at Anfield.

All of Arsenal's strikers

got on the score sheet as the Gunner blasted Wimbleton 3-1 in the London derby at Selhurst Park.

Ian Wright struck his 10th goal of the season in the 11th minute, Alan Smith added a second and Kevin Campbell made it 3-0.

Wimbleton hard man Vinny Jones pulled one back for the Dons.

Chelsea hammered struggling Leicester 4-0, cracking two goals in the first four minutes at Stamford Bridge.

John Spencer put the Londoners ahead after just 19 seconds, and Leicester, dumped out of the League Cup by second division Brighton in midweek, were left reeling when Gavin Peacock added a second.

Spencer got his second in

the 49th minute and Neil Shipperley completed the rout.

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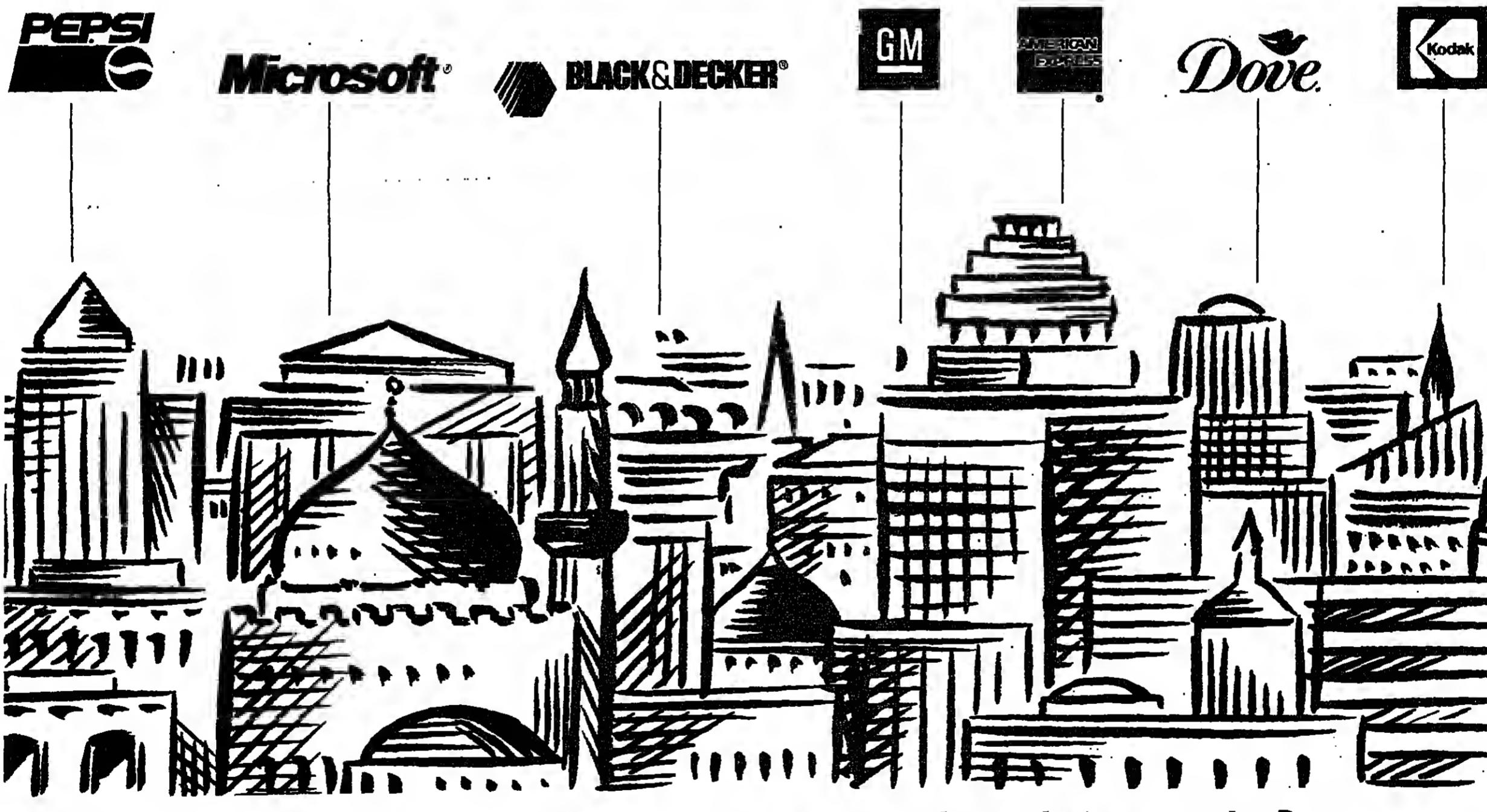
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Spencer got his second in



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Y	Yuera, Saffiyah Al Omari and Mahmoud Hamidah... Al Muhajer (Immigrant) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	SPANISH ROSE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" SPEED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	Cinema and Theatre Legal Evening Entertainment Starring: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer and Mahmoud Abu Ghrib. Children's theatre Marzouk and the Magic Lamp" at 10 a.m. For reservation cal tel: 618274-618275	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.

WHO forms team to study plague

NEW DELHI (R) — The head of the World Health Organisation said on Saturday that a team of scientists including U.S. and Russian doctors would investigate an outbreak of plague in India which is still puzzling experts.

WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima told a news conference after visiting western India — where the plague erupted — that the team was awaiting clearance from the government and hoped to launch its probe in the next few days.

Mr. Nakajima commended Indian health officials for moving quickly to control the spread of plague, which has killed 56 people in less than three weeks, according to official figures.

But he said India needed to strengthen monitoring operations which can give an early indication of the outbreak of plague. Mr. Nakajima also said some of the country's laboratories had poor working conditions and were overwhelmed with work.

"They must intensify surveillance of rats all over India," he said. Rats can carry the bubonic plague germ.

Mr. Nakajima met Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on Friday and toured the western city of Surat, where the plague has killed at least 52 people, on Saturday.

Addressing mounting doubts about the nature of the disease in Surat, Mr. Nakajima said he was "100 per cent sure" it was the plague. Some experts have claimed it was not pneumonic plague, which attacks a victim's lungs, but a related illness.

"I am reluctant to say there is a real epidemic in real scientific terminology," he said. "I say there is a plague."

Mr. Nakajima said the outbreak was clearly the plague but it had baffling features which needed to be probed.

The disease has struck far more males than females, he said. Some doctors believe that the generally greater mobility of men in India meant they were more exposed to pneumonic plague, spread between humans through infected sputum.

But Mr. Nakajima said highly contagious pneumonic

Seoul warns North of U.N. sanctions

SEOUL (Agencies) — President Kim Young-Sam on Saturday warned that South Korea would push for sanctions against North Korea if the communist state failed to resolve the row over its nuclear programme in talks with the United States.

The WHO chief said nine of the 192 confirmed victims of pneumonic plague in Surat also had the AIDS virus — twice as high a proportion of HIV-positive cases as in the overall population of Surat.

There were many thousands more suspected cases of plague than confirmed cases in the outbreak, of which there were fewer than 300.

Many more victims could have been expected in a major pneumonic plague epidemic.

Experts were also unable to explain why the pneumonic cases have been largely concentrated in Surat even though at least 300,000 people fled the city in panic after the outbreak was declared three weeks ago.

Nor were they able to establish whether an outbreak of bubonic plague in the western state of Maharashtra, transmitted from rats to fleas to humans, was the origin of pneumonic plague in Surat. Bubonic plague attacks a victim's lymph nodes.

"There still is a lot of mystery and question marks," said WHO epidemiologist G. Rodier.

The team of WHO experts was expected to include the agency's staff, representatives of India's National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Russian scientists and officials from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Mr. Nakajima repeated the WHO's recommendation that foreign nations should not take steps to impede travel to and from India. Many countries have ignored the WHO's advice and cracked down on travel and trade with India.

The number of cases has fallen in recent days but Mr. Nakajima said India could not be declared free of pneumonic plague until no new cases had been reported for 12 days.

tions with North Korea. Mr. Kim attacked Washington's basic stance in the talks and said the administration must increase the pressure on North Korea.

He told the Times the North Korean government was close to a possible economic and political crisis and would bend to pressure.

"If the United States wants to settle with a half-baked compromise and the media want to describe it as a good agreement, they can. But I think it would bring more peril and danger," Mr. Kim said in the interview.

Mr. Kim told the Times further compromise would prolong the life of the North Korean government, which he said was manipulating the United States.

"We should not make any more concessions in the future. Time is on our side ... it is North Korea that is restless," he said.

Diplomats and senior officials in the Clinton administration have said increased pressure on the communist North could bring the divided peninsula close to war.

North Korea meanwhile marked the passing of three months since the death of Kim Il-Sung by calling for loyalty to his son, Kim Jong-Il, who it said was the late president himself, Pyongyang watchers said.

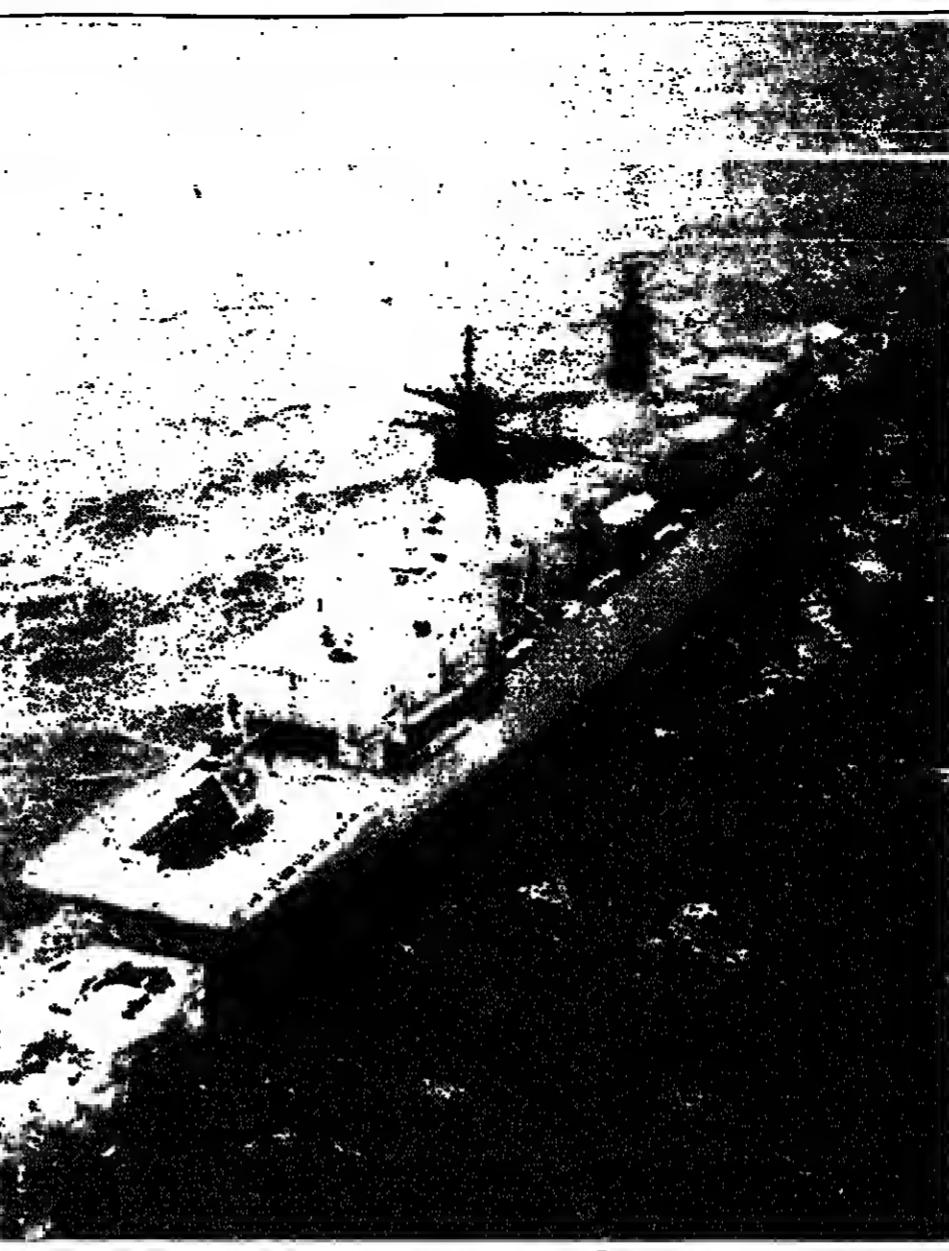
"Kim Il-Sung is Kim Jong-Il." Pyongyang Radio was quoted as saying by Naevoe Press, South Korea's state-run news agency which monitors news from the North.

Honorifics for North Koreans are usually dropped in Naevoe Press reports.

"Whatever trials and difficulties may confront us, we'll carry on with the great task of juche (self-reliance) revolution and complete it by upholding high the will of Kim Il-Sung and faithfully follow the ideology and leadership of Kim Sung-Il," the radio said.

It said Kim Jong-Il, 52, was now standing at the front of the revolution, stressing that he was carrying on the revolutionary struggle started by his father.

Kim Il-Sung died on July 8 at the age of 82, apparently of a heart attack.



BRITISH MIGHT: Undated file photo of Royal Navy frigate HMS Cornwall, which has been ordered to sail to Kuwait waters from southern Gulf to counter an Iraqi buildup in the area (AFP photo)

COLUMN

Woman to press on with Clinton harassment case

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Paula Jones said Friday she would press ahead with a sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton, after he rejected a settlement offer. "All I want to do is reclaim my good name from Bill Clinton," said Ms. Jones, who has accused Mr. Clinton of asking her to engage in sexual activities when he was Arkansas' governor and she was a state employee. Ms. Jones claims Mr. Clinton ordered a state trooper to bring her to a room in a hotel where a state function was being held in 1991. She said Mr. Clinton made unwanted sexual advances. Mr. Clinton denies the charges. Ms. Jones filed a \$700,000 lawsuit against Mr. Clinton and the trooper last May. She offered to drop the case on Oct. 1 if Mr. Clinton read a public statement saying he did not deny the meeting and absolving her of any improper or sexual conduct. Mr. Clinton's attorney said the offer amounted to an ultimatum and that there would be no response to it. "Now that this effort is rejected I will fight as long as it takes to assure that the truth is heard," Ms. Jones told reporters.

TV audience watches women-only bullfight

ARANJUEZ, Spain (AP) — Spanish bullfights, glorified by Ernest Hemingway as manly rituals, may never be the same. Panties, bras and flowers flew into the ring from a women-only crowd of 8,500 after each kill by bullfighter Jesulín De Ubrique.

At one point in the made-for-television show, a woman parachuted into the ring and presented the 20-year-old matador with a kiss and a bouquet. "He's so sweet," said a spectator identifying herself only as Rosabel. "He's really wonderful. He's very young, very spontaneous. He has a distinct style," said Victoria Roldán, 60, who travelled with about 50 other housewives to watch the 3 1/2 hour show. Spain's first all-female audience in a mostly male preserve was organised by TV station Antena 3 to capitalise on Ubrique's popularity — he was rated Spain's favourite matador in a newspaper poll published Friday. Traditional fans dislike him, saying he's more of a showman than an artist. But free tickets lured a capacity crowd to this town 50 kilometres south of Madrid.

The Security Council for the past week has been discussing a resolution that would establish an international war crimes tribunal to prosecute people suspected of mass killings in Rwanda.

Earlier this year, militias comprised mainly of ethnic Hutus slaughtered ethnic Tutsis and their sympathisers.

Mr. Bizimungu's government was established in July after Tutsi-led rebels routed government forces.

Mr. Bizimungu demanded that the tribunal be established in Rwanda and not in the Hague alongside the Yugoslavia tribunal, as the United States and other countries have argued.

"The location of the international tribunal in Rwanda by itself will send a message to the population that justice is not outside Rwanda," he said. "The population must feel that there is justice in Rwanda, not foreign justice."

Mr. Bizimungu admitted that there had been revenge killings, but said they were few and were not systematic.

"The purpose of the international tribunal is to discourage acts of revenge," he said. "If the culprits are not brought to justice, some people will attempt to make justice themselves."

Earlier this week, a U.N. commission of experts recommended that a tribunal be set up to investigate cases of genocide in Rwanda. The Security Council is expected to adopt the proposed resolution on the tribunal by next week at the earliest.

Uganda diplomat absconds with state fortune

KAMPALA (AFP) — Uganda's ambassador to Nigeria has absconded with an estimated \$395,000 earmarked for the building of a new embassy in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, the official New Vision newspaper said.

Foreign Affairs Minister Paul Ssemogerere told parliament Thursday that High Commissioner James Jukio, who had just been transferred from New Delhi to Lagos and charged with building a new embassy, has disappeared with the money. The minister did not say when Mr. Jukio went missing. Mr. Ssemogerere was not immediately available for details.

British coroner records verdict of euthanasia

LONDON (R) — A British coroner made legal history Thursday when he recorded a verdict of euthanasia after an 87-year-old woman killed herself. Coroner Paul Forrest made the decision after Lucy Vines left a note asking for her death not to be treated as suicide. Ms. Vines suffocated herself with a plastic bag in a residential home in Chipping Sodbury in western England.

"We have never heard of a verdict like this. The coroner has acted responsibly in respecting this lady's right to take her own life," a spokesman for the Voluntary Euthanasia Society told the Times newspaper. Ms. Vines' son told the court that his mother was worried about Alzheimer's disease and had developed some symptoms.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi Kurdish leader visits Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — The leader of a main Kurdish faction in northern Iraq, Massoud Barzani, has arrived in Iran for talks at the foreign ministry, Kurdish sources said Saturday. Mr. Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), embarked Friday on his first visit to Tehran since the Kurdish rebellion in northern Iraq in March 1991. Ties between Iran and Iraqi Kurds have been strained on charges that Tehran supports the Muslim fundamentalist Kurdistan Islamic League (KIL) in northern Iraq and that it has launched cross-border attacks on Iranian Kurdish rebels. But relations between the KDP and Tehran have improved as Mr. Barzani's fighters have sided with KIL against the other main Iraqi Kurdish group, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan led by Jalal Talabani. Hundreds of people have been killed in fighting for control of northern Iraq since May. But Iranian sources said Mr. Barzani was expected to leave before for Paris "in a few days" to sign a French-sponsored "peace accord" with Mr. Talabani.

Two Ethiopians convicted of Saudi hijack

NAIROBI (AFP) — A magistrate's court here has found two Ethiopians guilty of hijacking a Saudi airliner in March, but deferred sentencing until Tuesday, legal sources said Saturday. Faud Abdul Ibrahim, 21, and Sofia Kadir Mohammad, 20, were charged with seizing the Airbus-300 on a flight from Jeddah to Addis Ababa with 159 people on board on March 7 and forcing it to land in Nairobi. Sofia Mohammad wailed hysterically after the conviction on Friday. Two other Ethiopian suspects were acquitted of the offence in July. Ibrahim was shot and injured when Kenyan police stormed the plane and captured the hijackers who were armed with an imitation pistol on March 8.

Egyptian lawyer sends 100 clients to jail

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian lawyer has sent 100 of his clients to jail after signing dud cheques in their names worth millions of dollars using his power of attorney, Al Ward daily reported Saturday. Sayed Al Sayyad, 35, wrote off 12 million Egyptian pounds (\$3.5 million) worth of dud cheques to other clients before bringing legal action against the clients for whom he signed. Faced with the choice of paying up or going to jail, 100 people ended up behind bars, including shepherd Ahmad Hefni who lived from hand to mouth and was convicted for a bouncing cheque of 20,000 pounds (\$6,000). Mr. Sayyad himself was arrested on Friday.

PLO leader Khaled Al Hassan dies in Morocco

RABAT (R) — Khaled Al Hassan, a former senior figure in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), died at his home in Rabat during the night after a long illness, a PLO source said on Saturday. He was 66. Hassan, born in Haifa, was a member of the mainstream Palestinian group Fatah. He had been resident in Morocco for several years. The PLO source said he would be buried in Rabat on Monday.

Kohl coalition could lose election — poll

MUNICH (AFP) — An alliance of opposition parties in Germany could defeat Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition by half a point in next weekend's parliamentary elections, according to a poll published Saturday by the weekly Focus magazine. The magazine said that the poll, conducted by

the Basis Research Institute, showed that 47.5 per cent of voters would choose Mr. Kohl's centre-right coalition while 48 per cent would vote for the opposition, made up of Social-Democrats, the Green Party and former communists. "The result would leave the current Christian Democrat/Christian Socialist (CDU/CSU) alliance with the Free Democrats (FDP) two votes short for maintaining its majority," the magazine said. It added: "Only three weeks ago the coalition still held the majority in parliament by 10 seats, according to a poll by the same institute." The latest poll shows that the CDU/CSU would garner 41 per cent of the vote next Sunday and the FDP 6.5 per cent, while the Social Democratic Party (SDP) would win 36 per cent. Coupled with the SDP vote would be the 7.5 per cent that would be won by the Greens and the 4.5 per cent expected for the formerly communist Party of Democratic Socialism, according to an agreement between the three opposition parties.

Singapore prepares to cane drug addicts

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore, which has hanged more than 80 drug traffickers, is to amend laws to allow it to cane hardcore drug addicts, a news report said Saturday. "Cane is just one of the various instruments which we think should be made available to the court to punish the recalcitrant addict," Home Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng told the English-language newspaper The Straits Times. Mr. Wong said that the proposed legal changes, to be sent to parliament in a year's time, will also provide for longer detention periods for addicts repeatedly readmitted to government rehabilitation centres. Although Singapore hangs anyone for illegal possession of 15 or more grammes of heroin, the number of addicts in rehabilitation centres has risen from 5,700 in 1990 to 7,400 last year. Mr. Wong said that his ministry was convinced that caning would be a strong deterrent based on its experience with other offences for which caning is provided by law. These include vandalism and rape. "The number of repeat cases of people who have been caned going back to prison is fewer than other criminals," he said. Singapore hanged five traffickers over the past three weeks among them 59-year-old Dutchman Johannes van Damme and Ghanaian Mufutaw Salam, 28, who went to the gallows Friday.

Pakistan opposition alleges arrests

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistani opposition Saturday alleged large-scale arrests of its activists over the past three days, ahead of a general strike called by opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, but officials denied the claim. The crackdown led to the detention of thousands of people, the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) said in a statement. Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar, denying any large-scale roundup, admitted that the provincial authorities had made "some arrests" as part of measures aimed at preventing any disturbances. The law allows the government to place a person in preventive custody for the sake of maintaining law and order. Mr. Sharif has called for a nationwide strike on Oct. 11 as the latest move in his three-week campaign aimed at forcing Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to resign. The PML statement listed 14 deputies and leaders who had been arrested since Thursday in different parts of the country. It accused the police of maltreating inmates including women during raids on homes of opposition activists. Gohar Ayub Khan, a PML leader and former speaker of the National Assembly, told a news conference he had addressed messages to international parliamentary associations denouncing the "repressive" measures.

The suspects are to go on trial in Algiers Sunday. The PML has accused Paris of supporting the "impious"

Frenchman killed in Algeria

PARIS (Agencies) — A Frenchman missing in Algeria for four days has been found dead, his throat slit, the foreign ministry said on Saturday.

France expresses sadness and consternation over the assassination of Jean-Pierre Maniere, a French businessman residing in Algeria who had not been heard from since Tuesday," the ministry said in a statement.

Maniere, a consultant engineer aged 59, had last been seen in the McFitah region southeast of Algiers, officials said.

His body was found in the Boumerdes department, 40 kilometres east of Algiers.

The area is a stronghold of Muslim fundamentalists who have targeted foreigners and journalists since January 1992, when the military-backed government cancelled a general election in which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had taken a commanding lead.

His death brought to 62 — including 18 French nationals — the number of foreigners killed in Algeria since September 1993.

The radical Islamic Armed Group (GIA) has claimed responsibility for most of these deaths.

Government authorities say at least 10,000 Algerians have died in political violence in the same period.

The foreign ministry offered its condolences to Maniere's family and urged Algerian authorities "to provide it with all available information about the circumstances of this tragedy."

The ministry also repeated earlier recommendations that French citizens in Algeria leave if possible or otherwise exercise extreme caution.

Maniere was kidnapped from his Range Rover car, the ministry said, which he often used to visit the local Christian cemetery.

The authorities in France and Algeria had kept silent on his disappearance to avoid hindering a huge search operation.

In July, two diplomats from Yemen and Oman were kidnapped in the same region and released a few days later.

Among foreigners targeted by the fundamentalists were three French consular officers kidnapped by the GIA a year ago and released a week later with one of the victims bearing the message that all foreigners should leave the country within a month.

The Algerian daily El Moudjahid said Saturday that one of about 20 suspects arrested in the case, a Moroccan national, was hired by the GIA.

It remains unclear, however, whether Mr. Aristide will honour the amnesty or whether anyone will be prosecuted for these crimes.

The United States also had wanted an amnesty despite concern that Mr. Aristide might not enact it. Mr. Aris-

Haiti amnesty is approved

(Continued from page 1)

tie's supporters have called for "justice" for political and human rights crimes by the military.

"What this bill does ... is throw the ball back to President Aristide," U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager said Friday.

In London, the human rights group Amnesty International said it was concerned the bill would allow human rights violators "to enjoy impunity for their crimes."

Senators, however, said